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Sunday night's vicious thunderstorm did have one upside: It allowed our photographer to get this striking shot in Park Slope.

LIGHTS OUT!

Con Ed botches first heatwave

By Marie Cunningham
for The Brooklyn Paper

The summer's first heat wave hit Brooklyn full force on Monday. Con Edison power went out on Sunday evening that left thousands without electricity and tens of thousands more jammed up in the subways.

System overloads caused power outages that af-

fected nearly 3,000 residential customers, mostly in Boerum Hill. The blackout was also responsible for traffic lights, street signs, and wayfinding, showing some lines and others, others.

"These were isolated equipment problems," Con Edison spokesman Chris Olerz said. "At any point, any piece of equipment can break. It's not a lack of power."

On Sunday evening's vicious thunderstorms also knocked down poles, which contributed to the power outage, he said.

With the debacle of the Queens blackout still fresh on many New Yorkers' minds, some complained that Con Ed had not done enough during the cooler months to prepare for the inevitable heat wave.

Con Ed was trying to restore power to about 640 residents and businesses in an area bounded by Pacific, Baltic, Hoyt and Court streets at around noon on Monday. The neighborhood's electricity was fully restored by 5 pm that evening. Con Ed said it's still "working on getting back to a factor" for the black-

out, Olerz said, adding that Con Ed was running above its normal capacity.

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wave.

See HOT! on page 2



Con Ed workers scrambled to restore full power on Smith Street Monday afternoon.

Clones open on Tuesday

The Brooklyn Paper

The wait 'til next year is finally over. Cyclones fans.

At long last nearly nine months after the Brooklyn Cyclones were blown out of the New York-Penn League finals by the Auburn Doubledays, the "Clones" begin their quest for their second championship with their home opener against the hated Staten Island Yankees on Tuesday, June 17, at 7 pm at KeySpan Park. The action moves to Staten Island on Wednesday night and then back to KeySpan on Thursday.

Manager Edgar Alfonzo, who led the Cyclones to their lone championship season in 2001 and returned last year to pilot the minor-leaguers to another near miracle, will be back in the dugout calling the shots.



Back in business

Alan Newton got a degree from Medgar Evers College last week after serving 22 years in prison for a crime he did not commit. The 46-year-old was eventually exonerated thanks to DNA evidence and went on to get a degree in business from the school in Crown Heights.



THE BROOKLYN ANGLE By Gersh Kuntzman

DIVORCE COURT

orce bar, who has been rendering people assembler for more than 40 years.

"When the economy is good, the husband or wife says, 'Hey, now I can afford a divorce,' Man,

2003 to 2004 was a whoopie time for

• "It's been bad times," says, when the economy tanks, so do many marriages. And the economy in the first five months of 2008 — when 2,550 marriages were dissolved in uncontested fashion — has been bad.

"People tend to be more divorces during bad times," said Donald Mastromonaco, another leg-

end of the Brooklyn divorce scene.

• More hate Clearly, if divorces are surging, more and more Brooklynites are falling out of love.

But that fact, as you might say, there would be so many divorces all of a sudden.

"I really don't think it's because Brooklynites are hating each other more than before," said Jeff

See DIVORCE on page 5

CALL OFF THE DOGS!

Nathan's frank contest goes on a two-minute diet

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Paper

The celebrated Nathan's hot dog contest, the granddaddy of all competitive-eating spectacles, will drop from 12 minutes to just 10 this year.

The sudden change in the so-called World Cup of Eating was not publicly announced, but appears in a vaguely worded, three-paragraph item on the Major League Eating Web site. The note said the change of "numerous old items and elements" needed to make the contest "more dynamic" and "more fun."

"These random notes and contest-related scribbles were apparently jotted down at Nathan's," said George Shea, chairman of Major League Eating.

Shea allowed The Brooklyn Paper an exclusive look at the annotations, which were in a lady's neat handwriting scrawled on a program from the 23rd annual convention of the Optical Society of the State of New York, which was held at the Hotel St. George in Brooklyn Heights in 1918.

"Handwerker's frankfurter rules," the scribbles state, a reference to Nathan Handwerker, who opened Nathan's in Coney Island in 1916 and oversaw the celebrated first hot-dog-eating contest that year, which, according to legend, was won by an infant filled with hot dogs and buns. Last year's winner set a record with 66 hot dogs in 12 minutes.

But according to the scribbles on the Optical Society program, Handwerker's "rules" in the early years consisted of a noon contest that lasted "10 minutes."

That said, it is unclear whether the "rules" were scribbled on the program in 1918 or years later by someone using the program as scrap paper.

See HOT DOGS on page 12

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See HOT DOGS on page 12



Red hot summer

Victoria Ase with Ernest Kaczynski at Coney Island Pier on Sunday. Rec

ord heat the borough last weekend, and an enormous crowd cooled off at the beach.



Mayor Bloomberg broke in the putting green at the new junior golf center in Dyker Heights. Here, Hannah Youssef, 12, followed Hizzoner.

FORE FREE!

Dyker junior links open

By Jessica Firger
The Brooklyn Paper

The new City Parks Junior Golf Center, located in the former Boerum Beach in the putting green at the city's newest golf center at Dyker Beach Park last Friday, Hizzoner will never get to play a round at the six-hole complex — it's exclusively for kids.

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The \$8-million center, run by the City Parks Foundation, also includes a chipping range, golf simulators and a 5,000-square-foot clubhouse. Open seven days a week between July and October, 17.

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IKEA READIES FOR ITS BIG OPENING DAY ON JUNE 18. SEE PAGE 2 AND GO BROOKLYN.



Calm before the storm: Quiet Clinton Street in Red Hook will see an influx of cars once Ikea opens on June 18.

IKEA POLICES HOOK

Retail giant hires 17 cops to handle traffic all summer

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

EXCLUSIVE

Ikea is so concerned about traffic after its opening in Red Hook on Wednesday, June 18, that the Swedish furniture giant will pay the NYPD to deploy 17 uniformed cops to keep cars flowing through the summer. The Brooklyn Paper has learned.

Renting more than a dozen of New York's finest is part of Ikea's multi-pronged approach to dealing with the thousands of shoppers every weekday, and the estimated 17,000 customers each

weekday. Its plans also entail free ferry and subway shuttle service to Borough Hall and Smith-Ninth Street — but these forms of transportation may not be as popular as the home-cumbersome meatballs (or stockpiling Swedish meatballs).

For drivers, Ikea has paid the city to put up new signs on highways and local roads directing

drivers to and from the Beard Street mega-store. Clinton Street will be the main artery for drivers to reach the 22-acre waterfront store — Ikea's first in the city.

The anticipated increase in traffic in what has been a remote neighborhood was one of the chief arguments levied by critics six years ago against per-

mitting the store to open.

But Deputy Inspector Michael Kemper, the commanding officer of the 76th Precinct, which covers Red Hook, said he doesn't believe the police will be needed.

"It's not like we had a ship before, like when the city opened a cruise ship terminal off of Imlay Street in 2006. Every time that a ship is in, we have thousands of cars in and out of Red Hook," Kemper said, adding that the additional traffic is not a big deal. "But cruise ships only come in once a week or twice a week — and during the sailing season — unlike Ikea, which will be open from 10 am to 10 pm, seven days a week."

With traffic expected to be steady, Kemper has lined up the 17 cops from the NYPD's "paid detail unit."

That unit is a pool of off-duty officers who receive \$30 per hour by doing patrols, 41 city-sanctioned police work on their time off. Rockefeller Center, Yankee Stadium and synagogues and merchants associations hire paid detail cops in the past, the NYPD said.

Despite concerns about traffic, Red Hook residents remain pleased at the big blue giant moving at the south edge of their historically mixed neighborhood, where unemployment is around 20 percent.

Though the company, citing employee privacy, will not divulge how many of its 600 positions have been filled by Red Hookers, neighbors are still lauding praise.

"It's a large number," said Dorothy Daniels, president of the Red Hook East Tenants Association, who added that she personally knows five people who became managers.

"I'm well satisfied. They kept their promise."

HOT!

Continued from page 1

wave. "We've seen this before — businesses shattered as result of Con Ed's ineptitude," said Councilman Eric Gioia (D-Queens). "How much more do we need to put up with before we say enough is enough? What will happen when an under-regulated monopoly runs amok?"

Olert rejected Gioia's charge, saying that Con Ed spent \$1.7 billion in capital improvements and substations across the five boroughs since last September. And the company has handed out \$50,000 in payments to affected customers.

But the money did not prevent a blackout that lasted 24 hours for some people and affected service along the 2, 3, 4, F and G subway lines.

"We had a 2-year-old daughter, so we would have liked to turn on the A/C," said Mike Grassotti, who lives on Smith Street and did not have power during the sweltering Sunday night. It was back by 8:30 am, he said.

But that wasn't soon enough to avoid a massive morning dash home to turn on lights along the F and G lines remained spotty.

"We had to bring in generators to run the signals," said Charles Seaton, spokesman for NYC Transit. "But they didn't produce as much power as Con Ed."

Even as critics say that Con Ed is in-for-I so far this year, the state Department of Public Services, which regulates the energy giant, says it's too early to pass judgment.

"An assessment [of the blackout] would be premature," said agency spokeswoman Ann Dalton, who added, "They are being watched on a daily basis, 24/7."

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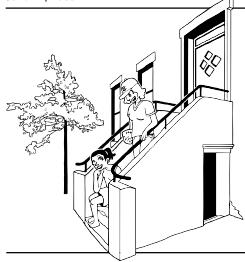
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THE STOOP

NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT

RED HOOK



'PAVE' the way for Red Hook charter school

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

It's official! A Red Hook public elementary school will share its building with a new charter school, despite split feelings from some parents and teachers who did not want to give an inch, let alone a few classrooms.

The PAVE Academy will begin next year with 88 students enrolled in kindergarten and first grade in a handful of classrooms and administrative offices inside PS 15 on Sullivan Street, which is at 54 percent capacity according to the Department of Education.

The announcement that PS 15 — also known as the Daly School for its former principal Patrick Daly who was slain in a gang-related shooting 15 years ago — would share space with the charter school ignited a firestorm of opposition from parents and educators in February.

But a series of meetings in the spring with PAVE officials defused some of the tension and even won over some parents, who have entered their children in the new academy, which will eventually cover K-8.

"They shouldn't be there. They're going to take up a lot of room we don't need," said Vickie LaSalle, the mother of a student at PS 15.

One teacher speculated that the resources of the charter school, which is part of the public school system, might breed jealousy. "I don't want our kids to feel slighted if [PAVE] has the latest computer or other equipment."

The PAVE Academy will have a maximum class size of 22 students with two teachers in every classroom, and longer school days and years. The school "will focus relentlessly on preparing children for college," said PAVE's founder and director Spencer Robertson. Robertson added that 75 percent of next year's students will come from the Red Hook ZIP code 11231.

PS 15's reputation is hard to ignore. The Department of Education gave the school an "A" on its report card, which mainly tracks student improvement over the previous year.

Though PAVE will have a private entrance to the school on Washington Avenue, the school's administration says the operation of the two schools could butt heads over turf.

PAVE's pupils will be easily identified by their school uniforms. Meanwhile, the principals must sort out issues of how to share the cafeteria, auditorium and playground and other common spaces.

COBBLE HILL

Docs: LICH prognosis negative

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

Medical staff at Long Island College Hospital say the only way to save the hospital's body is to cut off its head.

Traumas LICH from mounting financial losses and declining patient visits from doctors and nurses say the hospital should sever its connection with Continuum Health Partners, the company that manages LICH and several Manhattan hospitals.

LICH doctors and other staff called a committee and the state Department of Health to terminate their affiliation with Continuum and were joined by members of Brooklyn's congressional delegation and other elected officials in protest on hospital ground in the sweltering heat on Monday.

Critics say that Cobble Hill's venerable medical facility has been on a downward decline since Continuum took over in 1998, during a wave of mergers and affiliations across the country.

LICH now has a \$35-million deficit on this year's \$330-million budget, and officials say that the 150-year-old hospital is headed towards bankruptcy.

"After 10 years [with Continuum], our current financial



Politicians and doctors rallied outside the 150-year-old Long Island College Hospital, claiming that the Manhattan-based health care company that operates the facility is running it into the ground.

difficulty is far worse," said Dr. Arnold Licht, president of the hospital.

Continuum's sale of hospital real estate, including five clinics, to offset losses is a recipe for continued shrinkage of services and revenue for the hospital, Licht said of the 506-bed facility.

"I do envision them downsizing us further to a hospital of 200 beds, which would operate without any of the staff that we have here," said Licht, who runs its OB/GYN and oncology centers.

Licht told The Brooklyn Paper.

Continuum denies that it has plans to shrink the facility, saying many hospitals do not run at full capacity because of the shift towards outpatient care rather than lengthy hospital stays for patients.

The hospital care giant also defended its sale of neighborhood clinics, including one near Grand Army Plaza in Park Slope that had more than 40,000 patient visits per year, because such clinics drained the financial mainstay on LICH.

"These are physician practices that were struggling," said Jim Mandler, a Continuum spokesman.

Other sold properties include the landmark Lamm Institute building on Army Street in Cobble Hill, which netted \$6.1 million; and the 10-story medical center on Court Street in Carroll Gardens, which LICH used for its nursing and radiology schools until last year, when the building sold for \$24 million to a developer who is all done to narrow the gap between revenue and expenses.

"When [a] real-estate holding is no longer going to be used for the service it provides, it's time to move it," he said. "It behoves the hospital to divest themselves of the holding," said Mandler.

"The staff remains committed," he said of a complaint to Attorney General Cuomo in January that Continuum has mismanaged the hospital's funds, including a \$100-million bequest that was allegedly siphoned off to other Continuum facilities.

Neighbors don't want to see the facility go down the tubes. "We want this to be the best possible hospital because if you have an emergency, this is where you're going to want to be," said Cobble Hill Association member Margaret Ablon, whose daughter gave birth to two children in LICH.

COLUMBIA ST.

Columbia Street wants normalcy

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

After three years of rebuilding Columbia Street, work crews are moving along the last few blocks — between Atlantic Avenue and Congress Street. But residents complain the city needs to step up street cleaning, re-store bus routes and plant parking spaces along the main drag.

Cars are parked, in the waterfront barrier, despite a mostly paved, tree-lined street. And residents said they remain confused about where to park and catch a bus.

The street is the main transit lifeline for the hard-to-reach neighborhood, had been rerouted along Hicks Street during the recent reconstruction and its path has been inconsistent. Officially, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority says the bus will continue on Hicks Street for two more months, but



it has been spotted traveling on Columbia Street instead.

More often, there's a shortage of parking signs on many blocks, causing uncertainty whether certain spaces are legal. Others are interpreting it as a free pass to park with impunity.

The street itself is becoming dirty (see photo) — and a neighborhood source said it was

because there has been no street

cleaning for weeks.

But the Department of Sanitation says it has not curtailed street cleaning.

"We are cleaning the streets as normal," said agency spokeswoman Kathie Dawkins.

The temporary re-pavement of Columbia Street had been a source of frustration for neighbors, so when the city announced it was near the end this spring, they were as relieved as ever. Freshout Streets even threw a party in May.

"Everyone was excited," said Brian McCormick, a member of the Columbia Waterfront Neighborhood Association.

McCormick says the lack of parking signs on many blocks, causing uncertainty whether certain spaces are legal. Others are interpreting it as a free pass to park with impunity.

The city's Department of Design and Construction says the last stage of reconstruction between Atlantic Avenue and Congress Street will finish in four to six weeks, give or take.

"We want this to be the best possible hospital because if you have an emergency, this is where you're going to want to be," said Cobble Hill Association member Margaret Ablon, whose daughter gave birth to two children in LICH.

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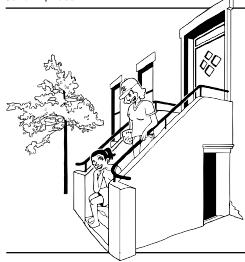
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THE STOOP

NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT

WILLIAMSBURG

Two Trees gets chopped down

By Ben Muessig

The Brooklyn Paper

The city hacked away at a developer's plan to build a hotel near the Williamsburg waterfront on Wednesday, rejecting a proposal to turn a park into a residential complex.

The Department of Buildings rejected David Walentas' \$3.6-million project, which called for the conversion of an industrial building at Wythe Avenue that would have more than doubled the brick building's height.

It was not immediately clear why the DOB nixed the proposed hotel late on Wednesday.

"Generally speaking, plans are disapproved for non-compliance with buildings and zoning regulations," said an agency spokeswoman.

The site of the proposed hotel — across the street from the popular First Date Bar — is zoned for manufacturing, so a hotel developer is forced to go through zoning to build lodging, which is why so many hotels are under construction or already operating in the Gowanus Canal zone.

But height restrictions and other zoning rules apply.

Walentas' Two Trees Management and the hotel's architect Morris Adjmi refused to comment about what kind of hotel they wanted to build on the lot.

Before the surprise rejection, news of a hotel caused more confusion than shock.

"They keep putting up all these high-rises and big buildings, and now people are asking Steve Ehrmann, owner of Turkey's Egg, a different question," he said. "Who wants to spend \$500 a night on North 11th Street?"

Plenty of people, says Todd Cahill, spokesman for Williamsburg's first boutique inn, Hotel Le Joli.

Since Hotel Le Joli opened beside the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway in November, its 54-room inn has been booked solid for the next six percent of its rooms — which start at about \$320 — each night.

"Williamsburg is becoming a trendy kind of a place where boutique hotels thrive," Cahill said. "It's a very nice market for us, but we're not so much for the broader hotel like a Holiday Inn."

Whether or not there is demand, some Williamsburgers don't think that hotels are the best use of space in the neighborhood's dwindling manufacturing district.

"I don't see the need for it there," said Community Board 1 member Eva Thies. "I'm just not sure that a mainly residential and industry-based community is the place for a hotel."

THE KITCHEN SINK

Greencards: Our favorite neighborhood, Bagger is trying to bring back the old days of players who didn't have to pay \$20 an hour to practice in the gym of the soon-to-close 59-Cecilie School. Donations can be made at www.greencards.blogspot.com.

... Our pal, artist **Mia Ferrara Wiesenholz**, snagged the annual Bombay Sapphire Designer Glass Competition's grand prize. We think her design looks more like a painting than a glass. You can see more of her work inspiration from our neighborhood, **Mia's Park Slope: Four Berkeley Carroll School** teens were recognized for their outstanding achievement in the National Latin Competition. What's outstanding is that they even Latin at 11.

... Our LeMore Arons is at it again. Last year, she raised thousands to bathe children in Africa getting a hand from the **LeMore Arons**. This year, she got more than two dozen entries involved. Upcoming nights include June 16 (**Flatbus Farm**), June 17 (**Lobo** on Fifth Avenue), June 18 (**Lobo** on Court Street), June 19 (**Boca Lupo**), June 20 (**Blue Ribbon**), June 21 (**Provence en Boite**), June 23 (**200 Fifth**) and June 24 (**Babouche**). For the full list, visit www.danceforthearcure.org or contact Lenore at walkingwithlenore@att.net.

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PARK SLOPE



'Fisching' for love

Proptic architect Karl Fischer discovered a good way to win praise for a new design — make it good looking and put it on an avenue lined by less-attractive buildings.

Rendings for the Fischer-designed, 12-story development on Fourth Avenue — one of the city's least attractive avenues, as Baymen-Green's Novo condos — was over many local critics who say that the planned 107-unit apartment building might be the first development on the boozing avenue that isn't an eyesore.

"Sure, it is not perfect, but compared to some of the buildings being built close by, Fischer's design is clean, with more glass and less boring brick," said Ben Bacash, owner of a business on Sixth Street between Fourth and Fifth avenues.

Fischer's building, which will replace of a two-story gas station, will have a garage, and space for ground-floor retail and a community facility like a doctor's office, said Project Manager Tetiana Lidakas.

— **Ben Muessig**

PARK SLOPE

Some children left behind?

By Mike McLaughlin

The Brooklyn Paper

Parents at Park Slope's most-coveted public elementary schools say the city should remap the school's zone to reduce crowding in their children's classrooms.

PS 321 on Seventh Avenue is at 114 percent capacity, according to the city, thanks to the growing number of young families who have moved to Park Slope since 2001. Sometime later, the Department of Education will have to send children elsewhere.

And, naturally, it's the talk of the town.

"It's obvious [that the crowding won't stop soon] because there are so many big buildings going up," said Alana Fishberg, whose daughter attends PS 321 and a younger one starting kindergarten in September.

Like other parents, she said that being able to get into PS 321 is a big plus she bought her home in the neighborhood.

But a decreased catchment area for the school would ignite a battle with parents who moved into the school's zone, yet whose kids aren't old enough to attend yet.

And empty nesters who suddenly



The Brooklyn Paper / Jason Polk

PS 321, a coveted public school in Park Slope, may have its catchment area downsized to reduce crowding.

find themselves outside the PS 321 zone would be enraged, because every valuable known to be higher in the zone.

The Department of Education says it has no immediate plans

to redraw the school boundary in District 15, which includes PS 321 and the nearby PS 322.

But a member of the local school board, now called the Community Education Council, said the city should not rule out tinkering with the map, no matter how unpalatable it would be for people whose home values depend on the school's gleaming reputation.

"I would be having an effuy and/or population of Park Slope for considering this," the board member, James Dever, told the New York Sun. "But I think it's something that has to be considered."

— **Sarah Portlock**

The Brooklyn Paper

Has Bruce Ratner's failure to build Atlantic Yards claimed its first victim?

High Stakes Steaks, a perfect-for-pre-game fast-food joint on Flatbush Avenue at Dean Street, closed last week. It's been a year since the opening of the controversial construction project that was supposed to create 1,500 construction jobs annually over 10 years. Yet construction has been slow, which was slated to be done by 2007, and has not even begun.

Instead, the bright orange lunch spot — with its own menu and its own steaks — quietly closed. Experts say the joint would likely still be open if the Nets were playing home games across the street, but the NBA team's arena is only partly to blame.

"They had a single food concept, and people in the neighbor-

hood were looking for more choice," said landlord Michael Michalek. Most of the people who went in there regularly him by the menu. You can take item A or item B."

The restaurant did offer several variations of steaks that made Philadelphia famous — there was chicken, different kinds

of cheese, and peppers, pickles and onions. But another common complaint was the long wait.

Workers on a hot lunch break barely had enough time to get there, order, eat and get back to work.

The owners could not reach Ratner for comment.

When the restaurant opened, a spokesman for the anti-Atlantic Yards group Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn said the store would be a welcome addition to the neighborhood.

"It's always a shame when a local business goes under," the spokesman, Daniel Goldstein, said.

"If they beat the odds and survive, it would be a great addition to the neighborhood."

Before High Stakes, a popular Greek diner, the Silver Spoon, operated in the spot for nearly two decades. Its owners retired early, Pintchik said.

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Two collared in brutal beating on First St

78TH PRECINCT

Park Slope

Three teens were arrested minutes after brutally beating a man on First Street on June 2, cops said.

The victim, 45, of Brooklyn St. Avenue residents, told police that he was walking towards Fourth Avenue when the posse set upon him. Two teens, who were between 14 and 17, then swiped his stuff. But minutes after the heinous trio — ages 14, 15 and 17 — fled towards Carroll Street, they were caught by police.

Meanwhile, the victim headed to New York Methodist Hospital, just five blocks away, for treatment of abrasions to his elbow, leg, wrist and hand.

Cleaned out

A believed-to-be street buzz had been cleared out by the thief as workers were busy tidying up the joint for the day's fun on June 3.

Consequently, that hood entered through the wide-open metal gate at around 9 am — while the staff was cleaning up the bar, which was between Sixth and Seventh avenues.

The thief took \$3,000 from a metal box in the basement and fled. The workers didn't notice the crime for two hours.

Prospect park

A believed-to-be caught red-handed as they fled from a Prospect Park West apartment that they had just tried to enter on June 4, police got to know.

Officer James Garcia got to the apartment, which is at 13th Street, at around 4 pm to find the two men running down the fire escape. One of the 15-year-olds quickly nabbed, but the other, seeking Garcia, headed for the roof.

But that didn't fool the officer, who ran toward the building and was waiting to collar the other 15-year-old.

Neither teen had anything on him, so Garcia was charged with a broken second-floor window. So the punks were hit with attempted burglary charges.

Wheel bad

A thief swiped a man's motorcycle from in front of a Douglas Street building on June 4.

The victim, a \$4,000 Suzuki chopper told cops that he had left the bike between Fourth and Fifth avenues at around 10 pm. When he went back to the rice burner at 11 am the next day, it was gone.

Bar bag

Yet another thief nabbed yet another big whopper when another barfly took her eyes off her purse on June 7.

In fact, it has become a Police Blotter staple, a 26-year-old woman told cops that she was drinking at a bar on Fifth Avenue when, just after midnight, she noticed her bar bag had vanished.

In all, she lost lots of cards, \$30 and her Texas driver's license from the bar, which is between Fifth and Sixth streets.

Digital don't

A believed-to-be caught red-handed as they fled from a car parked at a popular hardware megastore near the Gowanus Canal on June 7.

The victim, a 20-year-old man, left the car with his Canon digital camera, lens and memory card inside — in the parking lot at around 4:30 pm. When he returned one hour later, the stuff was gone.

All told, the crook was away with \$1,170 in merchandise.

— Gersh Kuntzman

POLICE BLOTTER

77TH PRECINCT

Prospect Heights

Bar snatch

A thief snatched a purse from the lobby of a Vanderbilt Avenue nightspot on June 7.

The 40-year-old victim told cops that she had left her bag on a couch in the lounge area of the establishment on Fourth Street and Prospect Place, at about 10 pm. She left the room for about 10 minutes, and when she returned, her pocketbook was gone.

The victim told police that she had dropped her cellphone at about 1 pm near the bar, and as she bent over to pick it up, two men approached her from behind and one grabbed her pocketbook.

The hoodlums fled on foot, getting away with the bag and her cellphone.

— Marie Cunningham

94TH PRECINCT

Williamsburg-Greenpoint

Smackdown

A gang of teenaged hoodlums jumped three teenagers at roughly 10 pm on June 7.

Two ruffians boarded the Manhattan-bound train at the Grand Street station, with half ending up in the aisle and the other half boarding the next car. Once the train pulled out of the station at around 9:50 am, the hoods converged on their mark.

One of the thugs punched an unsuspecting victim in the face. When the victim's friends tried to find the perp, the random assault turned into a 12-on-three melee that lasted until the train pulled into the Graham Avenue station.

The hoodlums fled on foot, taking an iPhone, a Nerf football, a student MetroCard and \$18, but cops said they nabbed nine of the alleged miscreants.

On camera

Bay Ridge

Car break

More than \$40,000 worth of electronics was stolen from a deliveryman's van while he was grabbing a cup of joe on 73rd Street and 2nd Avenue.

He left the van docked-parked near Fifth Avenue at around noon, and returned 15 minutes later to find the passenger side door shattered.

The hoodlums fast asleep in the ground-floor room in one of the McKibben Street Lofts, awoke at 2pm and 3:30 am, when a roommate got home and demanded that the thief leave. He did.

A friend and witness said she saw two men enter her room at 6 am on June 8, but the victim, a

pm. After they left a half-hour later, a clerk noticed that the security cords had been severed and the display phones had been taken.

Phone grab

A brazen thief ripped the purse of a woman in the lobby of a Vanderbilt Avenue nightspot on June 8.

The victim told police that she had dropped her cellphone at about 1 pm near the bar, and as she bent over to pick it up, two men approached her from behind and one grabbed her pocketbook.

The hoodlums fled on foot, getting away with the bag and her cellphone.

— Marie Cunningham

L of a walk

Thugs trailed a Kent Avenue man as he walked home from the L train on June 7, mugging him for his money and leaving him with a black eye.

When the victim reached the corner of North Fifth Street and Kent at around 3:30 am, one of the crooks snatched a blunt-bladed knife from his belt and then snatched the victim's backpack and piffed his pockets for his Sidekick phone, iPod, bank card, wallet, keys and \$60.

I want your MTV

A crook snatched high-end film cameras and video equipment from a movie set on June 8.

The thief struck at around 7:30 pm and 11 pm, escaping from the set, which was between 23rd and 25th Streets and North Seventh Street, with \$8,050 of fancy electronics.

Dancing fool

While a 22-year-old woman danced at a Mesele Street disco on June 7, a crook took an iPhone, a wireless computer, an iPod, and a change bank.

Picking an Apple

Crooks stole an Apple laptop from a Graham Avenue apartment on June 8.

The victim told police that he was missing from the club, which is between Leonard Street and Lorimer Street, at around 1:30 am.

For nearly 30 minutes, the club manager found the purse in the men's bathroom, empty. The crook escaped with the victim's credit cards, IDs, and \$100.

Laptop snatch

A young woman was mugged at Metropolitan Avenue on June 31 and snatched as much electronics as she could carry.

The victim told police that she was walking home from the subway station between Lorimer and Leonard Streets, when a crook snatched her laptop.

The hoodlum fled on foot, taking an iPhone, a Nerf football, a student MetroCard and \$18, but cops said they nabbed nine of the alleged miscreants.

The crook escaped from the

apartment with three laptop computers, a wireless computer, an iPod, and a change bank.

Smash blues

A young woman fast asleep in her ground-floor room in one of the McKibben Street Lofts, awoke at 2pm and 3:30 am, when a roommate got home and demanded that she leave. He did.

A friend and witness said she saw two men enter her room at 6 am on June 8, but the victim, a

sleepy 25-year-old, thought the noise was just only his roommate.

The thug, who slipped through the unlocked front door, got away with her laptop, mouse and McGrat.

Eye sore

A 23-year-old man was attacked at the corner of Lorimer and Stagg Streets at around 7 pm.

The young man suffered injuries to his right eye and his head.

He told cops he could identify his assailant, but not until his eyes healed properly and his full vision returns.

Early bird

A young man eating out of a Household Bank store early on June 10 was robbed by a man, who grabbed her purse.

The man, 47-year-old, from behind at around 9 am, then got \$48, food stamp, her checkbook and pass port.

Diner beware

While eating at a restaurant on Grand Street on June 9, a woman had her bag snatched from her head by a bald crook.

The 30-year-old woman was enjoying her late dinner at 11 pm when her black wallet, containing four credit cards and \$100, disappeared faster than she could say, "Check please."

The man attacked the victim, a 20-year-old man, from behind at around 9 am, then got \$48, food stamp, her checkbook and pass port.

Out of town

A tourist from Seattle had her bag snatched from her head by a bald crook.

The victim told cops that she left her bag on a bar stool and turned around to discover it was gone.

The 24-year-old tourist lost her bag, which contained her credit cards, her passport, her checkbook and pass port.

Shirt naber

A shoplifter made off with \$500 in shirts from a Fifth Avenue designer boutique.

A perk-necked woman saw a man pick up a stack of clothes at around 2 pm, but didn't see him leave the store, which is near Sixth and Madison Avenues.

But a few minutes later, she noticed he — along with the shirts — was gone.

Blackberry bashed

Two thieves made off with eight cellphones from a popular street cellular provider on June 5.

Cops say the suspects entered the store, which is between Fourth and Fifth avenues, at around 6:30 pm.

The crook escaped from the

front of one of the most beautiful views in the world. Now people are actually locked out.

Park officials are keeping the park open after dark because it lacks outdoor lighting.

"We have to close at dusk because of health and safety requirements," said Rachel Gordon of the State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

We're in the process of doing design work to see how soon we can get outdoor lights there," Gordon said. "But there is no way that it could happen this summer."

The hoodlums fled on foot, taking the sleeping tenants, but tape over

the windows.

— Jessica Fierer

BUSCEMI!

Park Slope actor is ripped off by unidentified thief

By Gersh Kuntzman

The Brooklyn Paper

The brother of renowned big-screen star Michael Buscemi was snatched from an identity theft during a March 21.

Michael Buscemi told cops on June 1 that his bank had alerted him that someone had opened up charge accounts in his name and run up \$3,822.81.

"This kind of thing never happened to me before — I feel vulnerable," said Buscemi, 46, who is the son of an internee and Park Slope resident.

Or course, talking about the crime wasn't such a bad thing for Buscemi, who told The Brooklyn Paper that his upcoming performance on YouTube on June 26 at Barbes, a Ninth Street club, would make him feel better.

Buscemi's last performance at the club was the well-regarded "Merry in Retrograde." His brother, of course, is the more violent, independent outlaw in "The Sopranos."

An unrelated, though just as模子, crime, a Sixth Avenue woman told cops on June 2 that someone had opened several credit cards in her name and was ringing up \$12,000 before she figured it out.

As with all identity thefts in the 78th Precinct, Det. Tony Shy is on both cases.

They're not the only ones who have fallen victim to the same thief.

The young man, 21, was attacked at the corner of Lorimer and Stagg Streets at around 7 pm. The man began to argue, drawing a large audience of employees and customers.

But it was just a diversion!

After about 10 minutes, a third man broke up the argument, and the three walked out of the store.

It was then that the manager had unplugged the surge protector from the wall, disabling the alarm system and walked away with all 11 cellphones from the counter display.

Purse snatch

Two hoodlums snatched a woman's pocketbook as she rode the bus down Bay Parkway on June 7.

The 16-year-old was at the corner of 80th Street and the Avenue of the Americas when he was grabbed from behind and forced into the bus.

When the victim refused to give up her valuable bag, the hoodlums forced him around the corner. When the victim refused, the suspect followed him into the bus, where he was grabbed from behind and forced into the bus.

The young man suffered injuries to his right eye and his head, but he was able to identify his assailant, but not until his eyes healed properly and his full vision returns.

Bloody b-ball

A confrontation turned violent on Bay Ridge Parkway basketball court on June 8.

The 33-year-old victim told cops he was shooting hoops in the park near the corner of Bay Ridge

Parkway at around 7 pm when he got into a dispute with an older man.

As the argument escalated, the suspect suddenly grabbed his razor scooter, pulled back and swung it at the victim, hitting him in the face.

Avenue O!

A man robed a man beat a man on Avenue O on June 8.

The 19-year-old victim was walking down the street at about 11:45 pm. As he walked East 23rd Street, he was stopped by him and asked for money. When the victim refused to hand over any cash, the suspect punched him four times in the face before running away.

Cell hell

Three hoodlums stole cellphones from an 86th Street electronics store on June 5.

The store manager told cops that two of the suspects entered the store, which is located on Bay Parkway at the corner of Avenue of the Americas and 86th Street.

The three men began to argue, drawing a large audience of employees and customers.

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Kicked out of Eden

By Ben Mieselig

The Brooklyn Paper

The only way to see a million-dollar sunset in Williamsburg is to own a million-dollar condo.

The East River State Park — the only waterfront park in Williamsburg — is a great place to watch the sun go down.

The parkgoers stream out of East River State Park just when the million-dollar views start paying off. The park closes at sundown.

Front Gate Replica (first 2,500) presented by KeySpan

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

vs. Staten Island Yankees at 7 p.m.

Schedule Magnet (first 5,000) presented by Pay-O-Matic

vs. Staten Island Yankees at 7 p.m.

Front Gate Replica (first 2,500) presented by KeySpan

vs. Hudson Valley Renegades at 7 p.m.

Schedule Pen (first 2,500) presented by SUNY Downstate Medical Center

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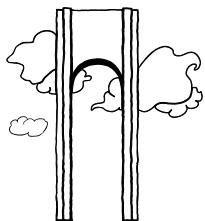
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For sale: Fourth Avenue's old churches

By Ben Muessig

The Brooklyn Paper

Bay Ridge's so-called "Faith Avenue" is losing its religion.

Leader of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church say that by this fall they may check a decades-old promise: mothball their 80-year-old house of

worship to make room for private residences atop a smaller ground-floor house of worship, joining a number of Fourth Avenue religious institutions that are downsizing their ecclesiastical cash for struggling congregations.

Rev. Craig Miller, pastor at Our Saviour's, says that even

with the help of the church's popular pre-school, his dwindling congregation of about 40 cannot afford the \$100,000 annual upkeep of their 80th Street church, nor the more than \$300,000 of work that has been put off because of funding woes.

Miller and his congregation are considering leveling their church and building a ground-floor "secular" temple, one that does not require the necessary cash to keep the house of worship alive — a plan that dwindling Fourth Avenue congregations of all denominations are embracing.

The Bay Ridge Jewish Cen-

temple, which is just down the street from Our Saviour's — voted almost unanimously last week to tear down an old synagogue that can fit 600 worshippers for a smaller

temple for its 100 congregants.

The remaining land would be sold to a developer.

Minus the controversy and the

"church" for its verdant stone-work — where the congregation wants demolish the 108-year-old building to make room for a smaller church and community center — the deal is still up in the air. Miller says he has yet to decide whether it will demolish its church, but Miller is optimistic about the potential development of land owned by Bay Ridge churches.

A realtor says that in freezing oneself out from the borders of these buildings we'll be able to focus on ministry," he said.

While neighborhood preservati-

onists curse the proposed demolition, real-estate agents say that church and condo developers are a match made in heaven.

"When these properties go on

sale, it's a payday for the seller and the buyer," said Bay Ridge realtor Tom McGuire.



Our Saviour's Church on Fourth Avenue and 80th Street may soon be up for sale.

Powers is out Father/son showdown narrowly averted

By Mike McLaughlin

The Brooklyn Paper

Presumptive Republican congressional candidate Francis H. Powers dodged a bullet this week after his son, Francis M., was forced to pull out of the Libertarian Party's nomination, thus avoiding the prospect of an ugly father-against-son race to succeed disgraced Rep. Vito J. Lopez.

The three-time candidate of the younger Powers, a rock musician, could have spelled trouble for his father, a retired Wall Street bigwig and current MTA board member, but the elder Powers' exit from politics into just another chapter in this bizarre family feud. And, had the younger Powers actually gotten the ballot for the 2008 election, he would have lost. Staten Island, the world's most divided, cost his dad votes on Election Day, if only because of the similarities in their names.

Faced with the prospect of five run-ins against one of his five children from his first marriage, Powers issued the following statement last week — some of the only words he's shared with the press since becoming a likely GOP nominee:

"I've tried very hard for many years to help my son. Unfortunately, he's rejected everyone's help to live a healthy lifestyle. I'm not sure of whether he's going to run for Congress. I still stand ready to help him move life in a positive direction."

A new Key Food?!

But locals wish they could just keep their old one

By Ben Muessig

The Brooklyn Paper

As residents of the south part of Bay Ridge watch hopefully as their beloved Key Food becomes a Walgreens drug store, a new Key Food is coming to the north part of Bay Ridge.

The new market, scheduled to open this fall on Bay Ridge Avenue between Ridge Boulevard and Third Avenue — about 25 blocks from the Third Avenue Key Food that will close at the end of the month.

As such, shoppers say the new Key Food is no substitute.

"It's just too far, especially for the elderly and the disabled," said Annette Geroge. "I don't have a car, and when I supposed to get there?"

Denise Loli, who led a drive that gathered 1,400 signatures to retain the Key Food, is happy that the new market will still get a new grocery store in an age of shuttering supermarkets, but she says it's little consolation.

"This won't do the residents immediately in the vicinity of [the old Key Food] any good," Loli said.

To fill the gap, the owner of the new Key Food said he'll

make deliveries to all parts of Bay Ridge.

"I just felt that the area needed a supermarket," said Sammy Abed, who also owns a Key Food in Bensonhurst on Kings Highway.

"When [the Key Food on 95th Street closes], people will have to go to Foodtown," he said, referring to a supermarket at Third Avenue and 81st Street.

"And if they don't like Foodtown, they don't have any choice," he added. "When we open, we'll give people choices."

The new grocery is in a building that once housed the Harry's for the Home, a furniture store. It will also have a parking lot.

Residents say that the new supermarket will provide an much-needed alternative for shoppers in the north side of Bay Ridge, who tend to pick up their groceries at delis and pop shops at the end of the month.

"There is really a big grocery void in that part of the neighborhood," said Josephine Beckman, director of the Community Board 10. "We didn't really fill that void for people who live in the 60s."

— with Marie Cunningham

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H&M coming to Fulton

By Sarah Portlock
The Brooklyn Paper

Swedish cheap-chic clothing store H&M will come to Fulton Mall by next spring — and could be one of the first tenants in a giant new glass-walled mall on Brooklyn Street.

The high-end designer-priced store confirmed that it would open by spring 2009 — and a real estate source told The Brooklyn Paper that exclusive Fulton Mall developer Al Laboz will be the store's landlord.

That makes sense, given that Laboz owns the landmark Concourse building at 505 Fulton St. and plans a glass mini-mall next door. Laboz has been pushing for years that H&M is exactly the kind of retailer he wants on a diversified Fulton Mall.

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Fulton Mall is the borough's busiest shopping strip, with 100,000 shoppers each day during the week and up to 30 to 100 percent according to Ingram and Hebron. More than 14,400 residential units and 1.6 million square feet of retail space are planned, construction is set to begin according to the Downtown Brooklyn Partnership, a quasi-governmental agency guiding development in the neighborhood.

MTV's new reality show "Real World" will start filming two blocks away on once-hardscrabbed Willoughby Street, signals another facet of that shift, Ingram said.

"People used to say, what comes first — the people moving in or the store coming in and people wanting to move?" Ingram said. "You never really know, but once they're down here, it influences many things."

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DIVORCE...

Continued from page 1
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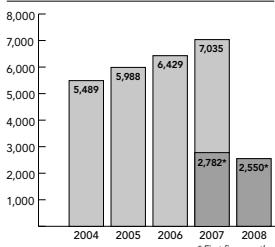
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Broken-hearts club

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Source: Kings County Supreme Court



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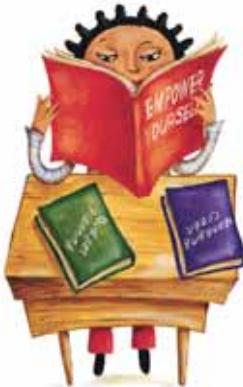


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Sunday night's vicious thunderstorm did have one upside: It allowed our photographer to get this striking shot in Park Slope.

LIGHTS OUT!

Con Ed botches first heatwave

By Marie Cunningham
for The Brooklyn Paper

The summer's first heat wave hit Brooklyn full force on Monday. Con Edison power went out on Sunday evening that left thousands without electricity and tens of thousands more jammed up in the subways.

System overloads caused power outages that af-

fected nearly 3,000 residential customers, mostly in Boerum Hill. The blackout was also responsible for traffic lights, street signs, showing some lines and others, otherwise.

"These were isolated equipment problems," Con Edison spokesman Chris Olerz said. "At any point, any piece of equipment can break. It's not a lack of work."

On Sunday evening's vicious thunderstorms also knocked down poles, which contributed to the power outage, he said.

With the debacle of the Queens blackout still fresh on many New Yorkers' minds, some complained that Con Ed had not done enough during the cooler months to prepare for the inevitable heat wave.

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wave.

See HOT on page 2



Con Ed workers scrambled to restore full power on Smith Street Monday afternoon.

Clones open on Tuesday

The Brooklyn Paper

The wait 'til next year is finally over. Cyclones fans.

At long last, nearly nine months after the Brooklyn Cyclones were blown out of the New York-Penn League finals by the Auburn Doubledays, the "Clones" begin their quest for their second championship with their home opener against the hated Staten Island Yankees on Tuesday, June 17, at 7 p.m. at KeySpan Park. The action moves to Staten Island on Wednesday night and then back to KeySpan on Thursday.

Manager Edgar Alfonzo, who led the Cyclones to their lone championship season in 2001 and returned last year to pilot the minor-leaguers to another near miracle, will be back in the dugout calling the shots.



Back in business

Alan Newton got a degree from Medgar Evers College last week after serving 22 years in prison for a crime he did not commit. The 46-year-old was eventually exonerated thanks to DNA evidence and went on to get a degree in business from the school in Crown Heights.

IKEA READIES FOR ITS BIG OPENING DAY ON JUNE 18. SEE PAGE 2 AND GO BROOKLYN.

SPLITSVILLE!

Brooklyn divorces up 30%

All our exes live in ... Brooklyn? Year divorce cases are up 30 percent in Kings County, up a whopping 30 percent since 2003.

The surge covers uncontested divorces — which numbered about 1,000 and increased to 7,055 last year. Contested divorces — the ones that get ugly — are up five percent, according to Tom Kilfoyle, the clerk at the Adams Street courthouse.

And Brooklyn's not alone.

"It's certainly not Brooklyn's population increase — which is only up two percent — so far this decade."

Of course, there are several theories:

* **Good times!** The booming economy between 2003 and 2007 allowed dissatisfied couples to feel like they could now afford to break up.

"Healthy economy means steady traffic at the divorce court," said Saul Edelstein,

the dean of Brooklyn's di-



THE BROOKLYN ANGLE By Gersh Kuntzman
DIVORCE COURT

vorce bar, who has been rendering people assembler for more than 40 years.

"When the economy is good, the husband or wife says, 'Hey, now I can afford a divorce,' " Man,

2003 to 2004 was a whoopie time for

* **Bad times!** And when the economy tanks, so do many marriages. And the economy in the first five months of 2008 — when 2,550 marriages were dissolved in uncontested fashion — has been deemed to be more divorces during bad times.

* **More hate!** Clearly, if divorces are surging, more and more Brooklynites are falling out of love.

But that fact, while it may be true, would be

so many divorces all of a sudden.

"I really don't think it's because Brooklynites are hating each other more than before," said Jeff

See DIVORCE on page 5

CALL OFF THE DOGS!

Nathan's frank contest goes on a two-minute diet

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Paper

The celebrated Nathan's hot dog contest, the granddaddy of all competitive-eating spectacles, will drop from 12 minutes to just 10 this year.

The sudden change in the so-called World Cup of Eating was not publicly announced, but appears in a vaguely worded, three-paragraph item on the Major League Eating Web site. The note said the change for the upcoming July 4 contest comes after the discovery of a trove of "numerous old items of ephemera" needed for the event's 100th anniversary.

"These random notes and contest-related scribbles were apparently found at Nathan's," said George Shea, chairman of Major League Eating.

Shea allowed The Brooklyn Paper an exclusive look at the annotations, which were in a lady's neat handwriting scrawled on a program from the 23rd annual convention of the Optical Society of the State of New York, which was held at the Hotel St. George in Brooklyn Heights in 1918.

"Handwerker's frankfurter rules," the scribbles state, a reference to Nathan Handwerker, who opened Nathan's in Coney Island in 1916 and oversaw the celebrated first hot-dog-eating contest that year, which, according to legend, was won by an infant filled with hot dogs and buns. Last year's winner set a record with 66 hot dogs in 12 minutes.

But according to the scribbles on the Optical Society program, Handwerker's "rules" in the early years consisted of a noon contest that lasted "10 minutes."

That said, it is unclear whether the "rules" were scribbled on the program in 1918 or years later by someone using the program as scrap

See HOT DOGS on page 12



Red hot summer
Victoria Ase with Ernest Kaczynski at Coney Island Pier on Sunday. Record heat the borough last weekend, and an enormous crowd cooled off at the beach.

FORE FREE!

Dyker junior links open

By Jessica Firger
for The Brooklyn Paper

The new City Parks Junior Golf Center, located in Dyker Beach, broke in the putting green at the city's newest golf center at Dyker Beach Park last Friday. Hizzoner will never get to play a round at the six-hole complex — it's exclusively for kids.

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The \$8-million center, run by the City Parks Foundation, also includes a chipping range, golf simulators and a 5,000-square-foot clubhouse. Open seven days a week between July and October,

the center is the first of its kind in the country.

"This facility will introduce many children, who otherwise wouldn't have had the chance to all the benefits of the game, including teamwork, self-discipline and enjoyment outdoors," said the mayor.

Eleven-year-old golf buff Erica Cristiano of Bay Ridge agreed, though she put it a different way.

"I like that it's not like other games," said Cristiano, who caught the golf bug while participating in a less-intensive City Parks Foundation program that gets kids the ball rolling.

But the opening compared to the new center, said Gregg Gallocher, director of the facility.

"You can teach someone to

See FREE GOLF on page 12



Mayor Bloomberg broke in the putting green at the new junior golf center in Dyker Heights. Here, Hannah Youssef, 12, followed Hizzoner.

H&M coming to Fulton

By Sarah Portlock
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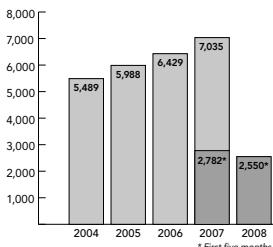
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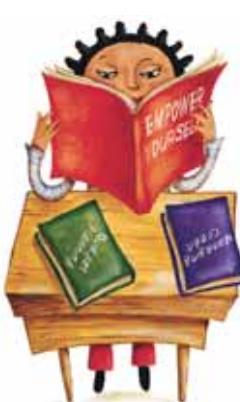
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Starbucks names shake for boro

By Sarah Portlock
The Brooklyn Paper

Manhattan has its eponymous bourbon and vermouth, and Brooklyn now has its...ice milk and caramel syrup?

Apparently, a Starbucks valiantly named frappuccino — a caramel macchiato — will be our borough's star in the culinary firmament.

Created by a Starbucks director manager after noticing high traffic girls were buying their traditional vanilla bean frappuccino, "The Brooklyn" consists of nothing more than the ubiquitous chain's existing drink, enhanced with a bit of coffee.

A Starbucks on Court Street broke the "news" this week by putting out an A-frame sign heralding, "The new all time favorite drink...the Brooklyn!" Oh, we have to mention that it's 40 cents (4.99 for a venti!) — and 20 more calories (620, but who's counting?) — than the standard frappuccino.

The whole thing may feel like a scam — or a way for Star-

bucks bean counters to stave off the vanilla and caramel blues — but hours after the sign was deployed outside that Court Street Starbucks, customers were genuinely abuzz (and drooling) to receive in a "Brooklyn" drink.

"It's the latest craze. Everyone's talking about it," said Park Slope resident Tanya Mikula.

"It's merely blended milk, vanilla powder, crushed ice, and whipped cream."

And that all-important car-

mel gives their own addiction to sugary summerdrinks that it's no surprise that Hollywood stars have already latched onto "the Brooklyn."

Debra Washington and John Travolta apparently qualified a few during the filming of "The Taking of Pelham 123" in the neighborhood last month, a production association said.

No word on whether the stars cashed back for seconds.

"This is news to me," said

Greg Jensen, a messenger. "I didn't know vanilla and carmel had anything to do with Brooklyn."

Didn't know?? Caramel is indeed beloved sugar, and if nothing else, the history of Brooklyn is the history of American sugar refining. By the late 19th-century, sugar plants here produced more than half the sugar consumed in the United States.

And now thanks to Starbucks, we're consuming it back.

— with Jessica Firger

Another new hotel set for Gowanus

The Brooklyn Paper

Sure, you've seen the lot in the pictures of 61st Street between Third and Fourth avenues — but a developer sees yet another hotel in the so-called Gowanus Canal Hotel District.

An unidentified builder just paid \$1.4 million for this lot — which can support a



10,000-square-foot hotel under construction.

Ken Freeman at Massey Knakal, which brokered the deal, said the manufacturing-zoned lot sold for so much because the new owner "isable to make advantage of the building air rights," most likely up to eight stories.

The hotel is one of five that are now proposed for the area, joining Hotel Le Bleu, the Holiday Inn Express and the Comfort Inn that are already operating.

The sale of the lot is likely to draw fire from Councilman Bill DeBlasio (D-Park Slope), who recently called for a moratorium on new hotels on manufacturing-zoned land in the Gowanus corridor. — Gersh Kuntzman



A developer just paid \$1.4 million for this lot — and plans a hotel. Such inns can be built on manufacturing-zoned land, though some height restrictions apply.

Kickball Pirate gets revenge

By Ben Muessig
The Brooklyn Paper

The Greenpoint kickball hero arrived Saturday night to avenge his bummer's sword fight at Macy's department store made his triumphant return to McCaren Park on Sunday, leading his team to a rare victory.

After a night behind bars and two weeks off the field, Lance Jackson, the lone survivor (err...kick) of a run scored,

helping the Pirates (officially known as Los Piratas Mecánicos) beat Regression Aggression, 5-3.

"I just happy to be back with my team," Jackson said after the victory, as self-evident as ever.

Jackson was separated from his squad when cops nabbed him as he shopped with his girlfriend on



Kickball — and machete — hero Lance Jackson.

May 25, charging his lady Greenpoint with weapons possession or carrying the sword, which he maintains was merely a prop for that evening's games. Jackson missed those contests while his case was being processed.

The arrest sent shockwaves through the 33-team Brooklyn Kickball League, where players patrilineal aside from Jackson and his squad, which has a reputation for rabblerousing.

The Pirates, with their 3-6 record, are the lone team left in the league. Known more for antics than athleticism, the team often interrupts games to throw water balloons and shoot fireworks.

But with Jackson's return, the team's morale improved. Pirates were throwing was strike, and the only explosions came off their steps — and co-captain Hector Castillo said Jackson was the cause.

"It's great to have him back," Castillo said. "He helps with the points and he helps with the morale. He's a high-ranking Pirate."

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JUNE RECOMMENDATIONS

Darrin Siegfried's Best Buys for June

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Australia's "other white wine!" This is one of those dry, crisp Rieslings that makes you say "Yes! THIS is what I want in a glass of wine!" Tangy, crisp, lively and bright with enticing floral and fruit aromas, followed by flavors of green apple, spices and stewed peaches.

L'Affiche Chardonnay
Made by Bruno Lafon ... one of the world's top winemakers! Try my latest discovery from the sunny south of France! Plenty of New World "terroir" and minerality, but with the ripe, fresh fruit-forward style that is more common in New World Chardonnays. Textured and creamy on the palate.

Terre di Sole Sangiovese
Pizza wine? Here it is! Made by two families from Verona who are known for their Valpolicellas and Amarones, this ruby red wine has lovely aromas of ripe red plums and cherries. Showing more complexity than other wines in this price range, flavors of rich red berries, cherries and black peppercorns. This wine is very soft and easy drinking, and pairs well with many dishes ... not just pizza!

Monte de Luz Cabernet Franc
What's new from the Lespougres family? My good friends from Bordeaux are making terrific wines in Uruguay, where quality wines have been made for over 150 years! Careful attention to the type of grapes planted, the soil, low yields and modern winemaking practices result in this elegant, delicious red! Rich and ripe tasting, complex and well balanced, this is a value not to be missed!

Pine Ridge, Chenin Blanc/Viognier
The noble white grapes of the Loire & the Rhône meet in this delicious wine ... perhaps the refreshing white I've tasted all year! Chenin has bright, tangy acidity as well as pear and citrus flavors, while Viognier offers lush, rich mouth feel with remarkable white peach and floral aromas. So much flavor and complexity at such a great price! My own Summer White!

Château Porcieux, Côtes de Provence Rosé
Remember that delightful dry rosé you sipped in Provence? This is it! This is the one to chill and enjoy on a warm day: not a trace of sweetness, but plenty of aromas of ripe strawberries and rose petals. This pink charmer makes every meal into a picnic, and every picnic into a summer celebration! Pour a glass with cold roasted chicken, sandwiches, cold cuts, cheeses, pâtes ... or just enjoy it with friends while watching the world go by. Ahhh ... life is good!

Pago del Vicario "Penta"
What's new? This is! Today's cutting edge cuisine is coming not from France, but from Spain, and young wine makers there are crafting new, exciting wines to match the world-wide excitement! Made from a blend of five grapes and given five months of barrel aging, this ripe, rich red has layers of black currant, toast, licorice, berries and figs. This is one that I immediately got excited tasting, and started pouring for everyone: I wanted them all to taste just how good it is!

Darrin's Discovery Wines for June!

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Fred Malwitz, 79

Ridgefield was father of Paper manager

for The Brooklyn Paper

Fred Malwitz, 79, a consummate father of Mets fan and father of Brooklyn Paper bookkeeper Lisa Malwitz, has died.

The cause of death has not been confirmed, but Malwitz, 79, was apparently the victim of a stroke on June 5, his daughter Lisa said.

A man of simple Brooklyn passions — baseball, fishing, tennis and the New York Yankees — Malwitz leaves nothing short of “the anchor in our family,” said Charles Malwitz, the middle of Malwitz’s three children who were all born in Brooklyn as a hardworking, easygoing and optimistic 6-foot man.

Frederick William Malwitz II was born May 29, 1929, in his parents’ home in the Cobble Hill section of Flatbush. He attended Erasmus Hall, then attended Flatbush high school where Barber Streisand graduated. Malwitz also worked at Ebiner’s, the bakery.

After graduation, Malwitz went to work as a messenger at Chase Manhattan Bank. This led to a 43-year career most recently



Fred Malwitz with his daughter, Lisa.

— Jessica Firger

Amanda Green, 49

Restaurateur and Heights bon-vivant

The Brooklyn Paper

Beloved Brooklyn Heights restaurateur Amanda Green, who started La Bouillabaisse and now runs Henry Street Wine Bar on Henry Street, died early Sunday morning from pancreatic cancer. She was 49.

Friends described the British expatriate as full of life, creative with a wry sense of humor.

Despite her fight with cancer, Green went ahead and opened her wine and raw-bar hotspot at Henry and Cranberry streets in January, and received acclaim for it.

A native of London, England, and — at one point, an exotic bird importer — Green moved to Cobble Hill from Manhattan in 1994. She opened La Bouillabaisse, a French restaurant on Atlantic Avenue that rode a wave of new restaurants and nightlife in the strip between the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway and Clinton Street.



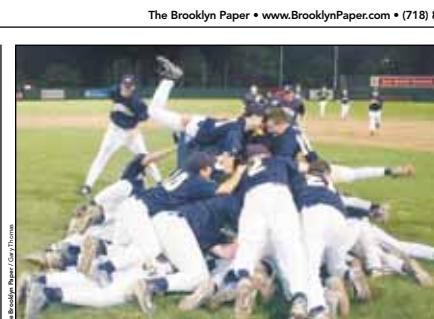
Last Christmas, Amanda Green with her children — Lella, 9, and Nick, 13.

A longtime close friend, Steve Maines, described Green as “a rock star” for the hospitality business.

She was one of those people [who], once you met her, if she liked you, you were instant —

Wrote, commented by The Brooklyn Paper, Diminap probed the recesses of his knife-sharp mind and declared that his 1986 article was accurate.

Green is survived by her two children, Nick, 13, and Lella, 9; and her mother and stepfa-



Win some, lose some

Xaverian HS players (left) celebrated their city Catholic High School Athletic Association championship victory over St. John’s University last Sunday at St. John’s University where the Clippers beat the Mavericks 7-1. A few days later (right), Brooklyn Paper Senior Editor Vince DiMiceli (center) crouched down in a (fairly) close play to the Scribes’ center fielder that was snared in a miracle catch. Paper Editor Gersh Kuntzman was 0-2 on the day, mostly due to an umpire with an extremely generous strike zone. Alas, the game



ended on a deep (deep!) fly ball to centerfield that was snared in a miracle catch. Paper Editor Gersh Kuntzman was 0-2 on the day, mostly due to an umpire with an extremely generous strike zone. Alas, the game

second annual “24 Hours of Baseball” charity event, the Clones front office won some and lost some,

but the team did raise \$15,000 for charity. Watch the video from our game at BrooklynPaper.com!

HOT DOG...

Continued from page 1

paper. One tantalizing hint, however, is a second note that lists all the newspapers that needed to be consulted to find the contest final results: the New York Times, the New York Evening Post, and the Brooklyn Standard Union.

The Standard Union folded in the 1920s.

Shea said he didn’t know the date of the scribblings, but said the very discovery of the document led to another astounding finding:

“We put together a team of experts to determine the validity of the scribblings and then, through the use of what I believe were scientific methods of radiocarbon dating, we discovered a New York Times article from 1986 that referred to the contest as taking 10 minutes.”

Major League Eating President David Diminap, George’s brother — said the Times article, coupled with the scribblings, provided compelling evidence that the estimated duration of length was actually 10 minutes, not the 12 minutes that have been the standard for at least two decades (see chart).

“I had David Diminap’s byline, and I’m not going to give it to Richard Shea!” said “Plus, it mentioned that the winner ate his hot dogs and buns, so clearly he ate the meal first,” Diminap said.

When contacted by The Brooklyn Paper, Diminap probed the recesses of his knife-sharp mind and declared that his 1986 article was accurate.

“Every eater can get to his capacity in 10 minutes, or in

decided to the contrary, such as a correction in a subsequent issue of the Times, my operating assumption is that [1986] is correct. We take such things very seriously.”

The decision to run the contest on a diet is already being considered by other journalists — though not to another astounding finding:

“Records have to mean something,” said longtime contest watcher and author Pauline Lawrence Gardner. “That’s always the talk around here. ‘Will [Takeru] Kobayashi break his record again? Can a human body really eat 66 hot dogs and still be healthy?’ It’s always about those 12 minutes.”

Fellow fan Kurt Hirsch echoed that thought. “Perhaps Major League Baseball should start playing seven-inning contests,” he said.

Reigning world champ Joey “Jaws” Chestnut, who downed 66 hot dogs and buns in 12 minutes last July 4, said the change would have “huge implications on the man-eat dog world of gustatory gluttony.”

Indeed, Chestnut, surprised past six-time champ Takeru Kobayashi, who downed 66 hot dogs and buns in the last few hours of the contest, said,

“I think it’s a ridiculous change,” the champ said, via cellphone from his home near San Jose, Calif.

He did not think the shorter format was better, however.

“True, even the great Kobayashi has exhibited reflexes



Six-time champ Takeru Kobayashi nearly experienced reflexes contrary to swallowing towards the end of the 2007 Nathan’s contest — and some competitive eating fans think his near disaster motivated the move to a 10-minute contest.

“Even less time,” he said. “I’ll just have to get to my capacity faster.”

That, perhaps, is exactly what the Shea brothers should be worried about, said one eater, who remains anonymous because he still active on a circuit that includes contests in lobster rolls, ice cream, jalapeño peppers and pan-seared cow brains.

“The contest is ultimately about marketing Nathan’s, and there have been too many close calls lately.”

True, even the great Kobayashi has exhibited reflexes

The 12-minute era

The return of the Nathan’s hot-dog-eating contest to a 10-minute format that existed at least through 1986 brings to a close the sport’s “12-minute era.” Here is a recap of what experts believe was competitive eating’s golden age (* indicates then-world-record):

YEAR	WINNER	HDBs
1990	Mike “The Scholar” DeVito	16*
1991	Frank “Hollywood” Dellarosa	21*
1992	Frank “Hollywood” Dellarosa	19
1993	DeVito	17
1994	DeVito	20
1995	Ed “The Maspeth Monster” Krachie	19 1/2
1996	Krachie	22 1/4*
1997	Hirofumi Nakajima	24 1/2*
1998	Nakajima	19
1999	Steve Keiner	20 1/4
2000	Kazutoyo “The Rabbit” Arai	25 1/8*
2001	Takeru Kobayashi	50*
2002	Kobayashi	50 1/2*
2003	Kobayashi	44 1/2
2004	Kobayashi	53 1/2*
2005	Kobayashi	49
2006	Kobayashi	53 3/4*
2007	Joey “Jaws” Chestnut	66*

“That’s not the issue,” he said. “The issue is history, and the preponderance of the evidence now suggests that the contest was always 10 minutes.”

“The contest is ultimately about marketing Nathan’s, and there have been too many close calls lately.”

But Shea was asked whether he was afraid the two-minute trim would not affect the contest in this regard.

“It’s a strict constructionist — is that a strict constructionist? I am a strict constructionist.”

Shea may have to eat those words. Two earlier Times articles, one from 1974 and another from 1975, referred to three-and-a-half-minute contests that were won by eaters who downed 14 and 20 hot dogs and buns respectively.

“I don’t know,” he said. “What’s a strict constructionist — is that a strict constructionist? But this, I am a strict constructionist.”

Shea may have to eat those words. Two earlier Times articles, one from 1974 and another from 1975, referred to three-and-a-half-minute contests that were won by eaters who downed 14 and 20 hot dogs and buns respectively.

HIE, MIND & BODY

ther, David Sandels.

— Sarah Portlock

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The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings

June 14, 2008

What's in store?

Red Hook's IKEA has Swedish style with a Brooklyn accent

By Adam Rathe
The Brooklyn Paper

Red Hook might not be the textbook definition of "the great outdoors," but on Monday, June 16, expect to see people descending upon the neighborhood with camping gear.

Mike Baker — manager of the Brooklyn IKEA store which opens on Wednesday, June 18 — told GO Brooklyn that he expects to see hundreds of people lined up in line for days in anticipation of the grand opening of the Swedish lifestyle behemoth's 281st store, and its very first in New York City.

And they wouldn't be accepted.

The first 35 adults in line will receive a free sofa at the grand opening, and the next 100 will take home a complimentary armchair.

While some will be going home without a free couch, there will be lots of wins along the way, such as tropical plants, gift cards and balloon animals for the kids, will be doled out for the entire first week.

Designed for you

When all the plants are dead and balloon giraffes popped, though, what Brooklyn will be left with is a prize in itself.

The \$46,000-square-foot store, decked with over 300 products, is more than just another big box plunked down in the red-hot-for-retail borough.

The store offers childcare in Smaland, which is decked out in a contemporary forest theme.

Calling Kings County "the heart of New York City," Baker walked GO Brooklyn through the store and showed off the usual wares — from inexpensive, do-it-yourself furniture to high-end, designer kitchens — but also touted the way that Brooklyn is different.

This IKEA features three mock apartments: a 375-square-foot dwelling that made everyone think — and one person say out loud — "Why can't I do that?" apartment; a 500-square-foot studio; two-bedroom based on a basement-apartment in Carroll Gardens; and finally, a 275-square-foot loft that, while crowded, had enough IKEA-brand storage options crammed into it that you might never notice you're living in a tiny space.

Additionally, the store features 45 rooms sets in which absolutely everything — from the drapes to the lightbulbs — are available for purchase.

If the only design ideas you're interested in are your own, that's fine, too. The store offers everything from throw pillows to entertainment centers, and even has employees on hand to help you lay out your own kitchens and bathrooms.



Swedish eats

IKEA also scores points for knowing what every Brooklynite wants more than anything:

a little bit of outdoor space. And while there are potted plants that you could perch on for fire escape, or glasses that you could drag up to the roof, the store does you one better.

Outside of the massive building, on the Red Hook waterfront, sits a six-acre esplanade complete with a long table and a stunning view of the Statue of Liberty and the harbor.

The 450-seat restaurant, which serves inexpensive breakfast, lunch and dinner options, has a similar view, but GO Brooklyn would rather stock up on snacks at the mar-

SHOPPING

IKEA (1 Beard St. at Ostego Street in Red Hook) will open at 9 am on June 18. Customers can get in line at 9 am on June 16. For information, call (718) 240-4532 or visit www.ikea-usa.com.

ket downstairs and chomp away al fresco.

Delivery options

Another perk? While you're moshing on "pepparkakor" (thin Swedish ginger cookies) and drinking an elderberry juice outside, IKEA can arrange to have your purchases come right to your home.

For \$30, you can get a three-cubic-foot box with your haul and have it delivered to your stoop (additional boxes are \$10), and for \$79, the big stuff can be delivered day-or-of next day.

So, while shuttle bus service will begin regularly to the Smith-Ninth Street stop on the F and G trains, the Ninth Street R train station, the Fourth Avenue stop on the F train, and to Borough Hall, this is a brilliant idea.

Why? Because mass transit to the store is hit-and-miss. After we left IKEA, we waited for the B77 bus for about 10 minutes before calling a car service.

That was good enough for carrying a messenger bag, but with a sack full of瑞典delights, that would be an adventure.

Want to know more? Call (718) 240-4532.

— Kate Ray



if you don't, he added, "It should be something you walk away from wanting to do again."

And don't forget to look up BrooklynCountry.com, the Web site and digital aquarium for country music artists and fans from Kings County, is celebrating its re-launching with a party at Natural Selection on June 15.

On the bill are folk guitarist Jon Irkin, Sean Kershaw, Serena Jean and The Whiskey Trippers, and The Newton Gang, who performs by Uncle Leon of The Allbliss, Alex Battles of Whiskey Rebellion, and more.

"If you know [Waylon Jennings'] music, then you're going to have a great time," said JD Dene of The Newton Gang (pictured, left) and co-director of BrooklynCountry.com. And even

if you don't, he added, "It should be something you walk away from wanting to do again."

Want to know more? Call (718) 782-5188.

— Kate Ray

al Seeger's (70 N. Sixth St. at Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg) doors are \$5. For more information, visit www.nycspace.com/brooklyncountryfair or call (718) 782-5188.

DANCE

Site specific

The Artchoké Dance Company is letting you direct its latest show, with its innovative, interactive production, "U R HERE," which allows you to choose the time, location and music of each performance.

Here's how it works: This weekend, Artchoké

dancers will perform ensemble dances and duets at outdoor locations in Park Slope. Just let the company's producer with the company's original music compositions, then go to any of the sites — where dancers will abort every 10 minutes — choose your music, and watch what unfolds!

Lynn Neuman, the company's producer, said that the concept was intended to "bring the show closer to [the audience] and involve them more. The audience is actually using them as tools to create their own experience."

Artchoké Dance Company presents "U R HERE" at 2 pm on June 14 and June 15, at J.J. Byrne Park (Fifth Avenue between Third and Fourth streets in Park Slope) and will continue at five more locations in the coming weeks. The cost is \$10 per person, but you can rent an mp3 player for \$10 at the Old Storehouse in J.J. Byrne Park. For more information, a map of the event, and to download music compositions, visit www.artchokedance.org.

— Kate Ray

ART

Block party

This weekend is the last opportunity for visitors to see the Brooklyn Museum's breathtaking exhibition of Japanese woodblock prints, "Utagawa: Masters of the Japanese Print, 1770-1900."

The show is a truly vintage collection of pop art by members of the Utagawa school of artists, featuring dramatic scenes of famous kabuki actors — "there always was a celebrity culture," museum curator Joan Cummins explained — to depictions of beautiful women; to stunning landscapes.



(A detail of Toyohara Kunisada's 1854 portrait of actor Ichikawa Sadanji I at right)

The woodblock prints were produced by the masses because of their artistry and affordability, and these professors to comic book art still have the power to captivate.

In addition to the mass-produced loose prints, the exhibit also features books of prints with exquisite details — like scene carvings, dressed figures and unusual mice — that were commissioned by private patrons.

Lest you think that graphic art is just for kids, be warned, there's some sexy stuff here, too.

Cummins explained that during this peaceful era in Japan's history, there was a shift over political control, and that caused a violent outburst.

"Utagawa: Masters of the Japanese Print, 1770-1900," is on exhibit through June 15 in the Brooklyn Museum (200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights). Admission is \$8. For information, call (718) 638-5000 or visit www.brooklynmuseum.org.

— Lisa J. Curts

EVENTS

To the streets

Traffic will be blocked all weekend in Park Slope, and this time it won't be thanks to a doublewide stroller barreling down Fifth Avenue.

On Saturday, the annual "Brooklyn Pride" activities kick off at 9 am with a 10K run in Prospect Park and a full day of events — including a street fair, parade (starting at 8:30 pm at 15th Street and Prospect Park West), live music at Seventh Avenue and Lincoln Place) and after-party — to celebrate Brooklyn's gay community.

But don't stay out too late, because on the next day, you could be in "Seventh Heaven."

The annual street fair, run by the Park Slope Chamber of Commerce, will sell food, music, shopping and more along Seventh Avenue, from Flatbush Avenue to 16th Street.

So whether you're joining in or just watching the crowd go by, Park Slope is the place to be for outdoor action this weekend.

"Brooklyn Pride" will begin at 9 am on June 14 at 15th Street and Prospect Park West. All activities are free. For information and a full schedule, visit www.brooklynpride.org. "Seventh Heaven" will begin at 10 am on June 15 at the intersection of Flatbush and Seventh avenues. Admission is free. For information, call (718) 234-1165.

— Kate Ray



Big country

The big city is about to get a taste of the country.

BrooklynCountry.com, the Web site and digital aquarium for country music artists and fans from Kings County, is celebrating its re-launching with a party at Natural Selection on June 15.

The party will feature a tribute show by honky-tonk legend Waylon Jennings (inset), in honor of his 71st birthday, and country music bands from all over Brooklyn will play some of Jennings' most popular songs.



if you don't, he added, "It should be something you walk away from wanting to do again."

Want to know more? Call (718) 782-5188.

— Kate Ray

al Seeger's (70 N. Sixth St. at Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg) doors are \$5. For more information, visit www.nycspace.com/brooklyncountryfair or call (718) 782-5188.

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WHERE TO GO

EDITORS' PICKS

SATURDAY
June 14

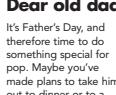


Fun to be 1

There are a lot of babies in Brooklyn, but the cutest by far is Akhitasaq, the New York Aquarium's itty-bitty walrus. And today, he's celebrating his first birthday with a big party featuring live music, arts and crafts, storytelling and animal feedings.

Noon to 4 pm, New York Aquarium (Surf Avenue and West Eighth Street in Coney Island), \$12, \$9 kids. For information, call (718) 265-3FISH or visit www.ny aquarium.com.

SUNDAY
June 15



Dear old dad

It's Father's Day, and therefore time to do something special for pop. Maybe you've made plans to take him out to dinner or to a ballgame, but if you're still stuck for a gift — and he's wise to the fact that he isn't the only one with a "#1 Dad" mug — check out page 9 for some great, last-minute gift ideas.

Noon to 4 pm, Keegan Park (1904 Surf Ave., at West 19th Street in Coney Island), \$7-\$14. For information, call (718) 449-8497 or visit www.brooklyn cyclones.com.

TUESDAY
June 17



Batter up

The borough's pride and joy, the Brooklyn Cyclones, return to KeySpan Park for their first game of the season, against the much-reviled Staten Island Yankees. Prior to the St. Yanks getting clobbered, Grammy-winning rocker (for the half-pint set) Dan Zanes will sing the national anthem.

7 pm, Keegan Park (1904 Surf Ave., at West 19th Street in Coney Island), \$7-\$14. For information, call (718) 449-8497 or visit www.brooklyn cyclones.com.

WEDNESDAY
June 18



What's in store?

The wait is finally over! Today, IKEA opens in Red Hook, and Brooklynites will no longer be forced to travel to the far-flung handfuls of Long Island or New Jersey to pick up do-it-yourself furniture or bags of surprisingly tasty, frozen Swedish meatballs.

9 am, IKEA (1 Beard St., at Oregon Street in Red Hook). For information, call (718) 246-4532 or visit www.ikea.com.



FRIDAY
June 20



That 'Ting'

British electro-pop duo The Ting Tings have been racking up good press across the pond thanks to their feisty eponymous debut album, and tonight, they're hitting Southpaw. If our hunch is right, the next time they play here, it will be at a stadium, so catch 'em now. 9 pm, Southpaw (125 Fifth Ave. at Sterling Place in Park Slope), \$12 in advance, \$14 at the door. For information, call (718) 230-0236 or visit www.spounds.com.

NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

Compiled by Susan Rosenthal Jay

SAT, JUNE 14

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

BROOKLYN PRIDE: Annual LGBT celebration features 10K run, street fair and apparel, 9 am to 4 pm, Williamsburg, between Nostrand and Flatbush avenues, (718) 951-4660.

CULTURAL MIX: Prospect Park Alliance's "Cultural Mix" festival returns to the heart of NYC.

Event features dance, food and music from around the world, including Latin and Caribbean music, at the Prospect Park Façade Ground, corner of Caton and Coney Islands, Prospect Park, 1 pm to 5 pm.

WALKING TOUR: Explore Fort Greene's historic district. Noon, Meet at Fort Greene Park, between Nostrand and Atlantic Avenues and Washington Park entrance. Call 311 for info. Free.

HIP HOP: Brooklyn Hip Hop Dancing in the Streets hosts its second annual block party, featuring Chicago's all-star crew, crew members from the Bronx, and Latin and Caribbean music accompanies performances. Block party from 1 pm to 2 pm, featuring performances by local artists and free-style dance from 3 pm to 4:30 pm, performances from 4 pm to 5 pm; dance party from 6 pm to 7 pm. Coney Island, Peppermint Plaza between Dwight and Franklin Streets, 1 pm to 7 pm.

SUNSET CRUISE: NY Audubon Society and the American Littoral Society host a narrated sunset cruise along the coast of Jamaica Bay. See nesting peregrine falcons, osprey, terns and more. Wine and cheese included. \$25. For information, call (718) 319-9344.

POET READING: A Public Space Books Poet Reading. Michaela Goh Hong who reads from her works, 7 pm. 323 Dean St. (718) 858-8067. Free.

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Mad for Dad

GO Brooklyn's guide to smart, last-minute Father's Day gifts

1 For the stressed-out dad

An hour-long massage, \$15. At D'Mai Urban Spa, 157 Fifth Ave. in Lincoln Place in Park Slope, (718) 398-2100 or www.dmaurbanspa.com.



— The Brooklyn Paper / Adam Rathe

6

2 For the sporty dad

A pair of Cyclones tickets, \$14 to \$30. At Keyspan Park, 1904 Surf Ave. at West 19th Street in Coney Island, (718) 507-8499 or www.brooklyncyclones.com.

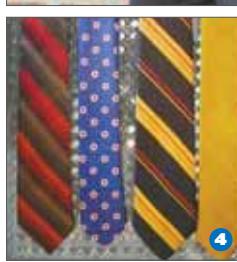


— Kate Ray and Adam Rathe

3

3 For the foodie dad

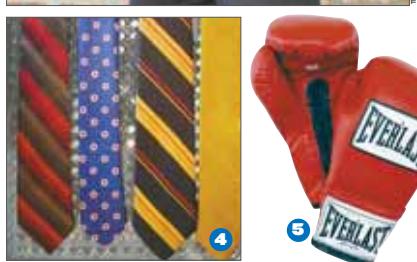
The Grillinger Sport BBQ Tool System, \$49.99. At The Brooklyn Kitchen, 616 Lorimer St. at Skillman Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 389-2982.



4

4 For the fashionable dad

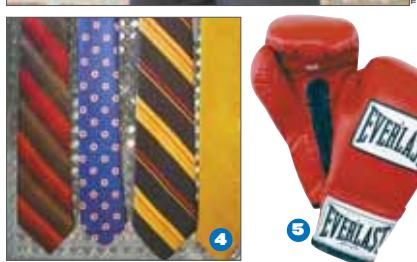
Skinny tie, \$24-\$28. At Alter, 109 Franklin St. at Greenpoint Avenue in Greenpoint, (718) 784-8181 or www.alterbrooklyn.blogspot.com.



5

5 For the dad who packs a punch

Gleeson's Gym 2008 Fantasy Boxing Camp, \$1450. Reserve a spot by calling (718) 797-2872.



6

6 For the smooth dad

Absinthe Shave Cream, \$22. At Korres Natural Products, 140 Montague St. at Henry Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 643-9425 or www.korres.com.

BREAKING CHEWS

By Adam Rathe and Kate Ray

The Brooklyn Paper



— The Brooklyn Paper / Adam Rathe

Tongues are wagging that Shake Shack, the fast-food chain that's dubbed "Mecca" is planning to expand to Downtown Brooklyn. A representative for the restaurant told GO Brooklyn, "New York is a city of five boroughs and we're thoughts. As we expand Shake Shack, we want to think about the city as a whole."

While we're crushed that the Shack flack couldn't confirm the tasty rumor, we're still dreaming of enjoying a Double Shack Burger with root beer float without leaving the borough. ***

It seems that every bistro has a different idea of what a "Brooklyn" is, and no coffee shop is getting in on the conference. In fact, the five boroughs have been spotted with signs advertising "The Brooklyn," a blend of coffee behemoth's vanilla and caramel "Frappuccino" mix topped with whipped cream and caramel sauce. ***

While the newly opened Beer Island (located on Stillwell Avenue, between Smith Avenue and the Coney Island boardwalk) might not be the first to come to take the kids, owner John "Cha Cha" Ciarcia's is already drawing celebrities, like Danny DeVito, and locals — like Emily Scherzer (left) and Michelle LaBlanc (right).

Fantasy 'Island': John "Cha Cha" Ciarcia's newly opened Beer Island is already drawing celebrities, like Danny DeVito, and locals — like Emily Scherzer (left) and Michelle LaBlanc (right). — The Brooklyn Paper / Adam Rathe

The venue, a giant sandy lot that accommodates up to 500 people and features the name — as well as wine and hot dogs (a larger menu is in the works), is meant to be more toned-down and family friendly than Ciarcia's other bar, the legendary Ciarcia's.

"Beer Island is about people coming with their families," said the gruff Ciarcia. "It's like sitting on the beach and relaxing." You might also be spot to spot a celebrity, since Ciarcia's has been stamped in a number of movies and TV shows, including the last two seasons of "The Sopranos," which has a lot of famous friends.

Danny DeVito was there last Saturday, he said, "he loves Beer Island." "He's from the place, he loved Beer Island."

Ciarcia has plans to erect an outdoor stage at Beer Island, and throughout the summer will hold concerts, promotions and other special events, like a possible soccer ball tournament with Pabst Brewing Company. ***

Summer in Cobble Hill just got a little

bitter sweater. Last week, cookie czarina Melissa Murphy expanded her Court Cupcake & Sweet Market to include the new Sweet Meets Ciarcia's, a one-stop shop for all your ice cream needs.

Offering cookies, shakes, milkshakes, "Jumberry Sundae" with strawberry ice cream, raspberry sorbet, meringues, berry sauce and freshly whipped cream — the shop will cater to the neighborhood's sweet tooth.

The event, which is being held at 225 Adelphi St. at Willoughby Avenue in Fort Greene, is free and open to the public. ***

"I always wanted to open an ice cream parlor," Murphy told GO Brooklyn. "So when the space next door became available, I decided to bring something new to the neighborhood."

"I thought it would be an ice cream parlor," she added. "And I've always had a thing for sundae."

Another perk of the adjacent Ciarcia's — twice as much garden! Murphy has doubled her outdoor space to give customers a quiet, relaxing spot to munch in. ***

Where there's "Smoke," there's fire. In early July, Smoke Joint, the Fort Greene Clinton Hill Cooperative Diner will be celebrating its fifth anniversary gala at Tambor in Fort Greene. Co-sponsored by Clinton Hill wine shop Grumpy Vines, the event will feature a silent auction to benefit Smoke Joint.

Music will feature artists from Hoboken Outpost, Spur Tree in Manhattan, Madiba Choice Market, Maggie Brown, Pequeno and Fairway. ***

Information and to buy tickets, visit www.theccos.org.

There will be games and an exhibit of

student artwork, but we're really excited for the "Taste of Fort Greene and Clinton Hill" on July 19, 2008. Ciarcia's already invited the neighboring Little House Market, which will branch out yet again as Peaches, a Southern-themed restaurant at 393 Lewis Ave. in Bedford-Stuyvesant.

Chef Cody Utzman, formerly of Brooklyn Label, has struck out on his own with Papacito — "hot man" in English — a beer garden and taqueria that's currently under construction in a big beers in a lot on Huron Street (between Manhattan Avenue and Franklin Street) in Greenpoint. On a recent walk by, the space was so crowded that we had to move on. Acapulco around the corner to quell our guacamole craving. Welcome back, Cody. ***

Now and a PSA for CSAs. In the past year, the Fort Greene Clinton Hill community has kicked off their own Community Supported Agriculture groups, which bring fresh produce to members each week. Fruit and vegetables come straight from the farm, and members get a chance to snap up low-cost, fresh produce and the farmers a chance to collect some up-front green before dealing with grocery stores and their高.

Membership for this season is filled up for both groups, but visit www.fortgreenecsa.org or www.dumboeca.org for more info. ***

Finally, congrats to Dan Griffin of Little Art Throwdown, joint El Beto. Last week, Griffin won the prize at "Little Art Throwdown" in Manhattan, where bartenders competed to create the prettiest kebab of steamed meat.

He's from the place, he loved Beer Island."

9 DAYS...

Continued from page 8

WILDER HERZ: "A 4pm show at Brooklyn Artists Gym, 1684 Carroll Street, Brooklyn, \$10. Free. RECEPTION: Smack Mellon presents "There Is No Synonym for Herz," featuring emerging international artists, 5 pm to 8 pm, 92 Plymouth St., (718) 250-0000.

GLEASON'S GYM: hosts a fundraising event for Help A Child Smile, featuring matches, Johnny Rotten, a silent auction, guest exhibitors, the screening of World Championship fight video, and a raffle, 6 pm to 11 pm, the audience and a 50/50 raffle drawing. \$20 includes food and drink. \$10 admission. 6 pm to 11 pm, 77 Front Street, (718) 250-0000.

ROOFTOP FILM: Indulgence short films, "Eminent Domains," 5pm to 9pm, Old American Inn, Factory St., (718) 250-0000. www.rooftopfilms.com

SUN, JUNE 15

Father's Day

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

FATHER'S DAY FISHING: Poles and bait provided. \$30 per person at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue, 10 am to 1 pm. Free.

SEVENTH HEAVEN: Screenings featuring food, games, shopping and music, runs from 7th Avenue to Flatbush Avenue, (718) 339-0003. Free.

PARK TRIVIA: Urban Park Rangers

Avenue to 4th Street, 11 am, (718) 238-1165. Free.

PERFORMANCE

CIRCUUS SUNDAYS: Professional acts from around the world. \$10, kids 1 pm and 4 pm. Monday through Saturday, 1 pm to 4 pm, Conover St. (877) 238-5596.

GALLERY 123: Hosts its 11th annual Black Box Art Show today, "Hope's Arbor," 3 pm. 199 St. (718) 250-0541.

SUNDAY AT THE YARD: Music, food, games, and more, 3 pm to 9 pm, The Yard, Canal St. www.theyard.com.

RYAN REPETTO: "The Art of Dance," See Sat., June 14.

BARGEMUSIC: Classical music with a twist, 4 pm to 6 pm, Beach Haven, 4 pm. See Sat., June 14.

OTHER

DISABILITY AWARDS: Day care facilities celebrate the challenges they have overcome. Activities include a Super-Sport, on the Brighton Beach Boardwalk, music, live concert, Asser Levy Park, West Fifth Street, (718) 250-0003. Free.

PLATFORM: Brooklyn Society for the Arts presents the 2008 Platform Festival, Part 2, 11 am, Prospect Park West, (718) 250-0003.

OPENING PARTY: Babeland, the women-friendly boutique clothing store, 10 am to 4 pm, Park Slope. Local treats, gift bags, shopping, \$25. Open, p.s., Noon, 425 Bergen St. (718) 336-3000. Free.

BENEFIT GALA: Turning Point, a multi-service agency, hosts its annual fundraising event, \$200

to 4th St. - last side of 4th between 8th and 9th Streets, \$100. The 8th & 9th subway station entrance is in front of the National Bank, 20th St. Ave. across from the subway station. (718) 360-8198.

DANCE WORKSHOP: Bill Performing Arts Center presents "Souls of Our Feet People of Color," Dance Performance, 7 pm, Brooklyn Borough Women and Dance Ensemble, theater \$15, \$12 students, 10 am to 1 pm, 20th St. Ave., Long Island University, Kumble Theater, 20th Avenue Extension, 2nd floor, Brooklyn Service, Westborough Dept. Locations, 11 am to 4 pm. See Sat., June 14.

WOMEN'S NIGHT: Women's Night, 5 pm to 11 pm, 125 Franklin St., (718) 383-0096. Free.

TRIP TO SUNSETS: Footwork KINGz, a Chicago-based dance troupe, will perform at the second annual "Dancing in the Streets" block party in Red Hook on Saturday, June 14.

BOOKCOURT: presents a reading with Mary Elton, author of "Song of Brooklyn: An Oral History of American Culture Before 1945," 10 am to 1 pm, 1000 Washington Street, (718) 857-3782.

DOCUMENTARY SCREENING: Film "A Thousand Splendid Sunflowers," 5 pm to 7 pm, 10th Street, (718) 857-3782.

CELEBRATE BROOKLYN: Jazz with Medeski Martin and Wood, Marc Ribot's Ceramic Dog, and the band "The Call Theory," 5 pm to 11 pm, 10th Street, (718) 857-3782.

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PLAY STARS: 7 pm, 106 Court St. (718) 857-3677. Free.

ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE: presents "TR Wazwawa, a theater company from Poland," 7 pm to 11 pm, Macbeth," Production features with actors from Poland, 9 pm. See Sat., June 21.

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OTHER

RHYTHM AND BLUES FEST: Brooklyn Academy of Music, 1pm to 11 pm, 3rd Street and 13th Avenue, (718) 837-3400.

BOOT CAMP: 6:30 am to 7:30 pm, 10th Street, (718) 857-3782.

ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE: "Macbeth," 9 pm. See Sat., June 21.

THURS, JUNE 19

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0096. Free.

PERFORMANCE

MAKE MUSIC: NY's Open on Tap festival, 10 am to 11 pm, 3rd Street and 13th Avenue, (718) 837-3400.

SOUL CONCERT: Gogol Bordello, a gypsy-punk group, performs at McCarter Park Pool, 1pm to 11 pm, 10th Street, (718) 857-3782.

GOOD COFFEEHOUSE: Brooklyn's first coffeehouse, 1pm to 11 pm, 3rd Street and 13th Avenue, (718) 837-3400.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONCERT: Carnegie Hall, a local concert with the Brooklyn Youth Band, 6 pm, Brooklyn Public Library's Midwood branch, 975 East 16th Street, (718) 250-0003. Free.

ARTIST RECEPTION: Safe-T-Gallery presents "Footwork KINGz," featuring photography, assemblage, oil painting, sculpture, and traditional Japanese wood block prints, 5 pm to 11 pm, 82nd Street, 13th Avenue, (718) 636-4100. Free.

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NEIGHBORHOOD CONCERT: Carnegie Hall, a local concert with the Brooklyn Youth Band, 6 pm, Brooklyn Public Library's Midwood branch, 975 East 16th Street, (718) 250-0003. Free.

ARTIST RECEPTION: Safe-T-Gallery presents "Footwork KINGz," featuring photography, assemblage, oil painting, sculpture, and traditional Japanese wood block prints, 5 pm to 11 pm, 82nd Street, 13th Avenue, (718) 636-4100. Free.

BOOKCOURT: presents "Reading with Nam June Paik," 10 am to 1 pm, 10th Street, (718) 857-3782.

DOCUMENTARY SCREENING: Film "A Thousand Splendid Sunflowers," 5 pm to 7 pm, 10th Street, (718) 857-3782.

SEMINAR FOR THE ARTS: Brooklyn Arts Council holds a talk by artist-in-residence, 10 am to 12:15 pm, NYC College of Technology, 330 Fourth Avenue, 11th floor, (718) 797-0181. Free.

PLAY BALL: KeySpan Park hosts the 10th Annual Little League baseball tournament, 9 am to 5 pm, 1 pm to 7 pm, 1904 Surf Ave., Coney Island, Brooklyn, NY 11235. (718) 777-0181. Free.

KNITTING WORKSHOP: Brooklyn Fiber Arts hosts a workshop, 10 am to 12:15 pm, NYC College of Technology, 330 Fourth Avenue, 11th floor, (718) 797-0181. Free.

PLAYGROUND: KeySpan Park hosts the 10th Annual Little League baseball tournament, 9 am to 5 pm, 1 pm to 7 pm, 1904 Surf Ave., Coney Island, Brooklyn, NY 11235. (718) 777-0181. Free.

DANCE: Thelma Hill Performing Arts Center presents "Our Feet People of Color," Dance Festival," Today, Ron K. Brown's Pilgrim Dancers, 7 pm, Brooklyn Academy of Music, 303 Bedford St., (718) 636-0000. Free.

BOOKCOURT: Reading with Brenda L. Koerner, author of "One Soldier's Flight from the Greatest March



Dance from down under

Want to experience our world's many cultures without leaving Brooklyn? Get ready for Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts' 2008-2009 lineup, announced earlier this month. Brooklyn Center will present similar acts from Argentina on Nov. 15, and everything in between at its home on the Brooklyn College campus, the Walt Whitman Theatre.

"I believe very strongly that I can bring in art that's going to connect with people," said Sella Selway, told GO Brooklyn. "We're creating an experience that you can't get anywhere else, and it's

right here in your borough."

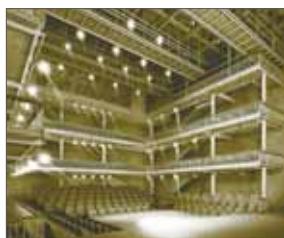
Get ready for Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts' 2008-2009 lineup, announced earlier this month. Brooklyn

Center will present similar acts from Argentina on Nov. 15, and everything in between at its home on the Brooklyn College campus, the Walt Whitman

Theatre.

"The Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College 2008-2009 season begins in October at the Walt Whitman Theatre (2900 Campus Rd. at 4th Street). Individual and group tickets and subscription tickets for the 2008-2009 season are available now at www.brooklyncenter.com or (718) 951-4500.

— Kate Ray



Cast party

The Theater for a New Audience won't move to its Frank Gehry-designed Fort Greene headquarters (rendering pictured) for quite a while, but that won't stop the group from throwing a party in the neighborhood.

"We're trying to get the community to know about us," Rachel Lovett, director of the group's capital campaign, told GO Brooklyn. "It gives us an edge, so that people know who we are before we get there."

Hold on to the roof of the 30-story Forte Condos building, located at 200 Columbia Street, from Columbia Street Waterfront District eatery Kerhogo 126, an open bar courtesy of

— Adam Rathe

BROOKLYN Nightlife



<http://www.BrooklynPaper.com/nightlife>

'Devil' in the details: Daniel Johnston, the Texas-based singer-songwriter who shot to fame with the 2006 film "The Devil and Daniel Johnston," will bring his strange, provocative live show to the Warsaw in Greenpoint on June 20. For our complete Brooklyn Nightlife listings, visit www.BrooklynPaper.com/nightlife.

Holy 'Hill'

Dance companies take center stage at Downtown festival

By Adam Rathe
The Brooklyn Paper

When the Thelma Hill Performing Arts Center kicks off its 12th annual "The Souls of Our Feet People of Color Dance Festival" on Monday, at Long Island University's Kumble Theater in Brookville, it's going to be more like a family reunion than your average dance reunion.

According to Alex Smith, executive chairman of the 32-year-old Thelma Hill Performing Arts Center (THPAC), this year's dance festival — which continues through June 24 — is different because instead of focusing on individual dancers, it will feature 10 companies, all of whom Thelma Hill has a hand in establishing, all of which have the Washington, DC-based Edge-works (performing June 17) and Philadelphia-based The Smoke, Lilies & Jade Arts Initiative (performing June 22) hail from the borough.

"Brooklyn just fosters that type of creativity," Smith told GO Brooklyn. But you can't see any of it without tickets, which are on sale now.

The Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College 2008-2009 season begins in October at the Walt Whitman Theatre (2900 Campus Rd. at 4th Street). Individual and group tickets and subscription tickets for the 2008-2009 season are available now at www.brooklyncenter.com or (718) 951-4500.

— Kate Ray

"This year we're presenting eight new companies, none of which were in existence before 2000, and they are all from the New York area. And because we're presenting emerging companies that Thelma Hill nurtured in their early years."

Indeed, Ron K. Brown, the award-winning Fort Greene Evidence dance company, is one of Thelma Hill's greatest successes, and will be bringing his troupe to the festival on Tuesday, June 17.

Other emerging artists like Abraham.in.Motion artistic director Kyle Abraham, have some of Brown's

success rubs off on them as they present their works on the same stage on June 22.

It seems like Thelma Hill is trying to really explore what's happening with artists of color," said Abraham, a Cobble Hill resident who will be presenting "Number 6," a dance inspired by the Jackson Pollock painting of the same name. "It's not just all about one aesthetic. All of the artists involved have so



Group dynamics: Among the emerging dance companies performing as part of Thelma Hill Performing Arts Center's dance festival at the Kumble Theater are The Smoke, Lilies & Jade Arts Initiative, taking the stage on June 22.

different viewpoints and ideas."

Smith agrees it's important to present new and exciting groups alongside those who are still exciting, but maybe not quite as new.

"Urban Bush Women and Evidence are new, whereas these companies are more — 15 years ago," he said of those well-known THPAC alumni, who will perform on June 16 and 17, respectively. "It's great that they're willing to perform, and it's good, because it offers continuity to the organization. We do dance presentation for

companies of color, so you see those that are new and those that are more established."

Not just any new talent makes the cut, however. Smith said that the festival is known for being a launching pad for dance companies that may not be the best of the best are chosen to represent Thelma Hill on stage.

"This festival will give you an idea of who is going to be major on the scene in the next two to five years," he said. "These companies are definitely going to be the movers and shakers."

Additional companies slated to perform during THPAC's 12th Annual "Souls of Our Feet People of Color Dance Festival" on June 16: HUNTERDANCE Theater and Tracy Lang on June 23; and Purplements and Asase Yaa African-American Dance Theater on June 24.

And while dance companies can make it big in any city, Smith believes that it's right here in Brooklyn where they'll learn to sink or swim.

"That is one of the strengths of Brooklyn," he said. "It's very culturally aware."

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AWP/16 pages • Vol. 31, No. 24 • Saturday, June 14, 2008 • FREE



Sunday night's vicious thunderstorm did have one upside: It allowed our photographer to get this striking shot in Park Slope.

LIGHTS OUT!

Con Ed botches first heatwave

By Marie Cunningham
for The Brooklyn Paper

The summer's first heat wave hit Brooklyn full force on Monday. Con Edison power went out on Sunday evening that left thousands without electricity and tens of thousands more jammed up in the subways.

System overloads caused power outages that af-

fected nearly 3,000 residential customers, mostly in Boerum Hill. The blackout was also responsible for traffic lights, street signs, and wayfinding, showing some lines and others, others.

"These were isolated equipment problems," Con Edison spokesman Chris Olerz said. "At any point, any piece of equipment can break. It's not a lack of work."

On Sunday evening's vicious thunderstorms also knocked down poles, which contributed to the power outage, he said.

With the debacle of the Queens blackout still fresh on many New Yorkers' minds, some complained that Con Ed had not done enough during the cooler months to prepare for the inevitable heat wave.

But Sunday evening's vicious thunderstorms also knocked down poles, which contributed to the power outage, he said.

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the cooler months to prepare for the inevitable heat

wave.

See HOT on page 2



Con Ed workers scrambled to restore full power on Smith Street Monday afternoon.

Clones open on Tuesday

The Brooklyn Paper

The wait 'til next year is finally over. Cyclones fans.

At long last, nearly nine months after the Brooklyn Cyclones were blown out of the New York-Penn League finals by the Auburn Doubledays, the "Clones" begin their quest for their second championship with their home opener against the hated Staten Island Yankees on Tuesday, June 17, at 7 p.m. at KeySpan Park. The action moves to Staten Island on Wednesday night and then back to KeySpan on Thursday.

Manager Edgar Alfonzo, who led the Cyclones to their lone championship season in 2001 and returned last year to pilot the minor-leaguers to another near miracle, will be back in the dugout calling the shots.



Back in business

Alan Newton got a degree from Medgar Evers College last week after serving 22 years in prison for a crime he did not commit. The 46-year-old was eventually exonerated thanks to DNA evidence and went on to get a degree in business from the school in Crown Heights.

IKEA READIES FOR ITS BIG OPENING DAY ON JUNE 18. SEE PAGE 2 AND GO BROOKLYN.

SPLITSVILLE!

Brooklyn divorces up 30%

All our exes live in ... Brooklyn? Year divorce cases are up 30 percent in Kings County — up a whopping 30 percent since 2003.

The surge covers uncontested divorces — which numbered about 1,000 and increased to 7,055 last year. Contested divorces — the ones that get ugly — are up five percent, according to Tom Kilfoyle, the clerk at the Adams Street courthouse. And the reason? "It's certainly not Brooklyn's population increase — which is only up two percent so far this decade."

Of course, there are several theories:

* **Good times!** The booming economy between 2003 and 2007 allowed dissatisfied couples to feel like they could now afford to break up.

"Healthy economy means steady traffic at the divorce court," said Saul Edelstein, the dean of Brooklyn's di-



THE BROOKLYN
ANGLE By Gersh Kuntzman
DIVORCE COURT

orce bar, who has been rendering people asunder for more than 40 years.

"When the economy is good, the husband or wife says, 'Hey, now I can afford a divorce,' " Man,

2003 to 2004 was a whoopie time for

* **Bad times!** Conversely, when the economy tanks, so do many marriages. And the economy in the first five months of 2008 — when 2,550 marriages were dissolved in uncontested fashion — has been deemed to be more divorces during bad times.

* **More hate!** Clearly, if divorces are surging, more and more Brooklynites are falling out of love.

But that fact, while it may be true, would be

so many divorces all of a sudden.

"I really don't think it's because Brooklynites

are hating each other more than before," said Jeff

See DIVORCE on page 5

CALL OFF THE DOGS!

Nathan's frank contest goes on a two-minute diet

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Paper

The celebrated Nathan's hot dog contest, the granddaddy of all competitive-eating spectacles, will drop from 12 minutes to just 10 this year.

The sudden change in the so-called World Cup of Eating was not publicly announced, but appears in a vaguely worded, three-paragraph item on the Major League Eating Web site. The note said the change for the upcoming July 4 contest comes after the discovery of a trove of "numerous old items of ephemera" needed for the event's 100th anniversary.

"These random notes and contest-related scribbles were apparently found at Nathan's," said George Shea, chairman of Major League Eating.

Shea allowed The Brooklyn Paper an exclusive look at the annotations, which were in a lady's neat handwriting scrawled on a program from the 23rd annual convention of the Optical Society of the State of New York, which was held at the Hotel St. George in Brooklyn Heights in 1918.

"Handwerker's frankfurter rules," the scribbles state, a reference to Nathan Handwerker, who opened Nathan's in Coney Island in 1916 and oversaw the celebrated first hot-dog-eating contest that year, which, according to legend, was won by an infant filled with hot dogs and buns. Last year's winner set a record with 66 hot dogs in 12 minutes.

But according to the scribbles on the Optical Society program, Handwerker's "rules" in the early years consisted of a noon contest that lasted "10 minutes."

That said, it is unclear whether the "rules" were scribbled on the program in 1918 or years later by someone using the program as scrap paper.

See HOT DOGS on page 12

See HOT DOGS on page 12



Red hot summer

Victoria Ase with Ernest Kaczynski at Coney Island Pier on Sunday. Record heat the borough last weekend, and an enormous crowd cooled off at the beach.



Mayor Bloomberg broke in the putting green at the new junior golf center in Dyker Heights. Here, Hannah Youssef, 12, followed Hizzoner.

FORE FREE!

Dyker junior links open

By Jessica Firger
for The Brooklyn Paper

The new City Parks Junior Golf Center, located in the former Boerum Beach in the putting green at the city's newest golf center at Dyker Beach Park last Friday, Hizzoner will never get to play a round at the six-hole complex — it's exclusively for kids.

The new City Parks Junior Golf Center, located in the former Boerum Beach in the putting green at the city's newest golf center at Dyker Beach Park last Friday, Hizzoner will never get to play a round at the six-hole complex — it's exclusively for kids.

The \$8-million center, run by the City Parks Foundation, also includes a chipping range, golf simulators and a 5,000-square-foot clubhouse. Open seven days a week between July and October,

the center is the first of its kind in the country.

"This facility will introduce many children, who otherwise wouldn't have had the chance to all the benefits of the game, including teamwork, self-discipline and enjoyment outdoors," said the mayor.

Eleven-year-old golf buff Erica Cristiano of Bay Ridge agreed, though she put it a different way.

"I like that it's not like other games," said Cristiano, who caught the golf bug while participating in a less-intensive City Parks Foundation program that gets kids the ball rolling.

But the opening compared to the new center, said Gregg Gallocher, director of the facility.

"You can teach someone to

See FREE GOLF on page 12

H&M coming to Fulton

By Sarah Portlock
The Brooklyn Paper



Swedish cheap-chic clothing store H&M will come to Fulton Mall by next spring — and could be one of the first tenants in a giant new glass-walled mall on Brooklyn Street.

The high-end designer-priced store confirmed that it would open by spring 2009 — and a real estate source told The Brooklyn Paper that exclusive Fulton Mall developer Al Laboz will be the store's landlord.

That makes sense, given that Laboz owns the landmark Concourse building at 505 Fulton St. and plans a glass mini-mall next door. Laboz has been pushing for years that H&M is exactly the kind of retailer he wants on a diversified Fulton Mall.

"I want to make Fulton Street Mall into 34th Street, where it's mass retail giving way to shopping experience," he told The New York Observer in 2006. "Instead of bringing in a dozen cellphone stores, [we need] a sprinkling of lingerie, women's garments, H&M or other type of stores."

Laboz did not return calls, but his company Web site heralds its 500,000-square-foot glass mall and promises "a major na-

Fulton Mall landowner Al Laboz is already building this glass-walled mini-mall on Fulton Street, which is reported to be the future home of an H&M store.

tional retail store" on its ground floor and luxury residential condominiums above.

H&M's Fulton Mall location will be its second in New York City, in Brooklyn, and would play a part in the area's ongoing transformation from a discount shopping strip into a broader residential community with a mix

of stores.

As such, it will be warmly received, retail experts said.

"[H&M] will bring a wonderful mix of retail to the heart of Brooklyn," said Paula Ingram of Ingram and Hebron Realty, which did not have a role in the deal. "They're very assertive — they do a lot of window

displays, and I think that's what we need."

Fulton Mall is the borough's busiest shopping strip, with 100,000 shoppers each day during the week and up to 30 to 100 percent according to Ingram and Hebron. More than 14,400 residential units and 1.6 million square feet of retail space are planned, construction is 100 percent according to the Downtown Brooklyn Partnership, a quasi-governmental agency guiding development in the neighborhood.

Ingram said H&M needs, which follows MTV's announcement that its trend "Real World" reality show will start filming two blocks away on once-hardscrabbed Willoughby Street, signals another round of that shift, Ingram said.

"People used to say, what comes first — the people moving or the store coming in and people wanting to move?" Ingram said. "You never really know, but once they're down here, it influences many things."

Kings Plaza Mall store opened in 2001. The Euro-styled retailer opened its first store in Sweden in 1947, and its first U.S. store in Manhattan in 2000.

DIVORCE...

Continued from page 1
frey Sunshine, the supervising judge for matrimonial matters in Kings County.

Instead, he credited his own courtroom for doing a better job than ever, right down to providing excellent service for couples who don't have lawyers.

"It's been a great year for the court and the word is getting out," said Sunshine. "People don't even take lunch most days."

Couples file uncontested divorces in any county, so if there's a backlog in Manhattan or Queens, many choose Brooklyn, Sunshine added.

"Brooklyn does do a better job than Queens," Mastrodomenico said. (The clerk from the Queens and Manhattan divorce parts did not return calls.)

• **More violence:** Sunshine thought that part of the increase in divorce was the decreasing stigma faced by victims of domestic violence.

"More and more, a woman in an abusive relationship knows she has options — and, thankfully, the court has been helpful," Sunshine said. He also credited District Attorney Charles Hynes for his work with domestic violence victims.

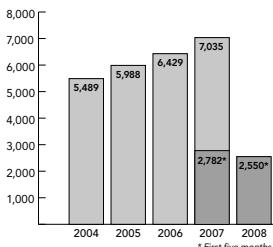
The bottom line? No one knows why Brooklyn is Splitville, Sunshine said.

"All I know is that I've been doing this for 20 years and business is good," Mastrodomenico said. "But the upick over the past four years? It's a mystery."

Broken-hearts club

The numbers don't lie: divorces in Brooklyn are up nearly 30 percent in just four years — but what's the reason? It's anyone's guess. Our handy chart captures the sad trend.

Source: Kings County Supreme Court



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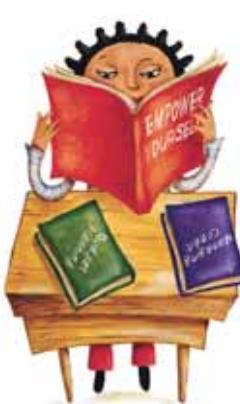
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Starbucks names shake for boro

By Sarah Portlock
The Brooklyn Paper

Manhattan has its eponymous bourbon and vermouth, and Brooklyn now has its...ice milk and caramel syrup?

Apparently, a Starbucks valiantly named frappuccino — a caramel macchiato — will be our borough's star in the culinary firmament.

Created by a Starbucks director manager after noticing high traffic girls were buying their traditional vanilla bean frappuccino, "The Brooklyn" consists of nothing more than the ubiquitous chain's existing drink, enhanced with a bit of coffee.

A Starbucks on Court Street broke the "news" this week by putting out an A-frame sign heralding, "The new all time favorite drink...the Brooklyn!" Oh, we have to mention that it's 40 cents (4.99 for a venti!) — and 20 more calories (620, but who's counting?) — than the standard frappuccino.

The whole thing may feel like a scam — or a way for Star-

bucks bean counters to stave off the vanilla and caramel blues — but hours after the sign was deployed outside that Court Street Starbucks, customers were genuinely abuzz (and drooling) to receive in a "Brooklyn" drink.

"It's the latest craze. Everyone's talking about it," said Park Slope resident Tanya Mikula.

"It's merely blended milk, vanilla powder, crushed ice, and whipped cream."

And that all-important car-

Given their own addiction to sugary summerdrinks, that's no surprise that Hollywood stars have already latched onto "the Brooklyn."

Debra Washington and John Turturro apparently qualified a few during the filming of "The Taking of Pelham 123" in the neighborhood last month, a production association said.

No word on whether the stars cashed back for seconds.

"This is news to me," said

Greg Jensen, a messenger. "I didn't know vanilla and caramel had anything to do with Brooklyn."

Didn't know?? Caramel is indeed beloved sugar, and if nothing else, the history of Brooklyn is the history of American sugar refining. By the late 19th-century, sugar plants here produced more than half the sugar consumed in the United States.

And now thanks to Starbucks, we're consuming it back.

— with Jessica Firger

Another new hotel set for Gowanus

The Brooklyn Paper

Sure, you've seen the lot in the pictures of 61st Street between Third and Fourth avenues — but a developer sees yet another hotel in the so-called Gowanus Canal Hotel District.

An unidentified builder just paid \$1.4 million for this lot — which can support a



10,000-square-foot hotel under construction.

Ken Freeman at Massey Knakal, which brokered the deal, said the manufacturing-zoned lot sold for so much because the new owner "isable to make advantage of the building air rights," most likely up to eight stories.

The hotel is one of five that are now proposed for the area, joining Hotel Le Bleu, the Holiday Inn Express and the Comfort Inn that are already operating.

The sale of the lot is likely to draw fire from Councilman Bill DeBlasio (D-Park Slope), who recently called for a moratorium on new hotels on manufacturing-zoned land in the Gowanus corridor. — Gersh Kuntzman



A developer just paid \$1.4 million for this lot — and plans a hotel. Such inns can be built on manufacturing-zoned land, though some height restrictions apply.

Kickball Pirate gets revenge

By Ben Muessig
The Brooklyn Paper

The Greenpoint kickball hero arrived Saturday night to avenge his bummer's sword fight at Macy's department store made his triumphant return to McCaren Park on Sunday, leading his team to a rare victory.

After a night behind bars and two weeks off the field, Lance Jackson, the lone survivor (err...kick) of a run scored,

helping the Pirates (officially known as Los Piratas Mecánicos) beat Regression Aggression, 5-3.

"I just happy to be back with my team," Jackson said after the victory, as self-evident as ever.

Jackson was separated from his squad when cops nabbed him as he shopped with his girlfriend on



Kickball — and machete — hero Lance Jackson.

May 25, charging his lady Greenpoint with weapons possession or carrying the sword, which he maintains was merely a prop for that evening's games. Jackson missed those contests while his case was being processed.

The arrest sent shockwaves through the 33-team Brooklyn Kickball League, where players patrilineal aside from Jackson and his squad, which has a reputation for rabblerousing.

The Pirates, with their 3-6 record, are the best team in the league. Known more for antics than athleticism, the team often interrupts games to throw water balloons and shoot fireworks.

But with Jackson's return, the team's morale improved. Pirates were throwing was strike, and the only explosions came off their steps — and co-captain Hector Castillo said Jackson was the cause.

"It's great to have him back," Castillo said. "He helps with the points and he helps with the morale. He's a high-ranking Pirate."

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Terre di Sole Sangiovese
\$9.95

Pizza wine? Here it is! Made by two families from Verona who are known for their Valpolicellas and Amarones, this ruby red wine has lovely aromas of ripe red plums and cherries. Showing more complexity than other wines in this price range, flavors of rich red berries, cherries and black peppercorns. This wine is very soft and easy drinking, and pairs well with many dishes ... not just pizza!

Monte de Luz Cabernet Franc
\$8.95

What's new from the Lésgourdes family? My good friends from Bordeaux are making terrific wines in Uruguay, where quality wines have been made for over 150 years! Careful attention to the type of grapes planted, the soil, low yields and modern winemaking practices result in this elegant, delicious red! Rich and ripe tasting, complex and well balanced, this is a value not to be missed!

Buy the 4-pack and save 10% **\$34.94**

Buy the 3-pack and save 10% **\$36.36**

Darrin's Discovery Wines for June!

Pine Ridge, Chenin Blanc/Viognier
\$13.49

The noble white grapes of the Loire & the Rhône meet in this delicious wine ... perhaps the refreshing white I've tasted all year! Chenin has bright, tangy acidity as well as pear and citrus flavors, while Viognier offers lush, rich mouth feel with remarkable white peach and floral aromas. So much flavor and complexity at such a great price! My own Summer White!

Château Porcieux, Côtes de Provence Rosé
\$11.95

Remember that delightful dry rosé you sipped in Provence? This is it! This is the one to chill and enjoy on a warm day: not a trace of sweetness, but plenty of aromas of ripe strawberries and rose petals. This pink charmer makes every meal into a picnic, and every picnic into a summer celebration! Pour a glass with cold roasted chicken, sandwiches, cold cuts, cheeses, pâtes ... or just enjoy it with friends while watching the world go by. Ahhh ... life is good!

Available Exclusively at Red, White & Bubbly

Bronxville Wine Co. Penta
\$14.95

What's new? This is! Today's cutting edge cuisine is coming not from France, but from Spain, and young wine makers there are crafting new, exciting wines to match the world-wide excitement! Made from a blend of five grapes and given five months of barrel aging, this ripe, rich red has layers of black currant, toast, licorice, berries and figs. This is one that I immediately got excited tasting, and started pouring for everyone: I wanted them all to taste just how good it is!

Try some today while supplies last!

Fred Malwitz, 79

Ridge was father of Paper manager

for The Brooklyn Paper

Fred Malwitz, 79, a consummate father of Brooklyn Paper bookkeeper Lisa Malwitz, has died.

The cause of death has not been confirmed, but Malwitz, 79, was apparently the victim of a stroke on June 5, his daughter Lisa said.

A man of simple Brooklyn passions — baseball, fishing, gardening, and the New York Yankees — Malwitz leaves nothing short of “the anchor in our family,” said Charles Malwitz, the middle of Malwitz’s three children who work at the paper as a hardworking, easygoing, and optimistic 6-foot man.

Frederick William Malwitz II was born May 29, 1929, in his parents’ home in Brooklyn’s Flatbush. He attended Erasmus Hall, then attended Flatbush high school where Barber Streisand graduated. Malwitz also worked at Ebin’s, the bakery.

After retirement, Malwitz went to work as a messenger at Chase Manhattan Bank. This led to a 43-year career most recently



Fred Malwitz with his daughter, Lisa.

Photo by Brooklyn Paper/John Doherty

as vice president of international operations.

He married his wife of 44 years, Mathilde — also known as Lee — died of cancer in 1994.

The couple had met on a blind date.

Friedrich said that Malwitz loved his family most of all, but the Metts were a close second.

“His last words were not, ‘I love you,’ but, ‘I hate the Yankees.’”

He is survived by his three children, Frederick William Malwitz III, Charles Florian Malwitz, and Lisa Jayne Malwitz; an older brother, Norbert; a son, Christopher; a daughter, Christopher; Samantha; Jason and Joni; and great-grandson Austin. — **Jessica Fierer**

Amanda Green, 49

Restaurateur and Heights bon-vivant

The Brooklyn Paper

Beloved Brooklyn Heights restaurateur Amanda Green, who started La Bouillabaisse and now runs the Wine Bar at 90 Henry Street, died early Sunday morning from pancreatic cancer. She was 49.

Friends described the British expatriate as full of life, creative, with a warm smile.

Despite her fight with cancer, Green went ahead and opened her wine- and raw-bar hotspot at Henry and Cranberry streets in January, and received acclaim for it.

A native of London, Green, and at one point an exotic bird importer, Green moved to Cobble Hill from Manhattan in the 1990s. She co-owns La Bouillabaisse with Frenchman Jean Atlantic that rocks a wave of new restaurants between Clinton and Hicks streets.

A longtime close friend, Steve Manes, described Green as a “natural” for the hospitality business.



Last Christmas, Amanda Green with her children — Lela, 9, and Nick, 13.

Photo by Brooklyn Paper/John Doherty

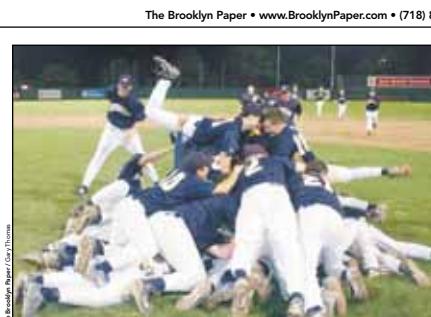
as “one of those people [who] once you met her, if she liked you, you were on her list — she’d be calling.”

Widely commented by The Brooklyn Paper, Diminaprobed the recesses of his knife-sharp mind and declared that his 1986 article was accurate.

“Indeed, David Diminaprobed me, and I’m still here,” said Richard Shea said. “Plus, it mentioned that the winner ate his dog and buns, so clearly he ate the dog and not the bun.”

When contacted by The Brooklyn Paper, Diminaprobed the recesses of his knife-sharp mind and declared that his 1986 article was accurate.

“Every eater can get to his capacity in 10 minutes, or in



Win some, lose some

Xaverian HS players (left) celebrated their city Catholic High School Athletic Association championship victory over St. John’s University where the Clippers beat the Mavericks 7-1. A few days later (right), Brooklyn Paper Senior Editor Vince DiMiceli (center) crouched down in a (fairly) close play to the Scribes charity game loss to the Cyclones front office. The mostly out-of-shape writers actually gave the “Clones” staffers a scare, losing 6-5, after rallying in the final frame. Alas, the game



ended on a deep (deep!) fly ball to centerfield that was snared in a miracle catch. Paper Editor Gersh Kuntzman was 0-2 on the day, mostly due to an umpire with an extremely generous strike zone. In their second annual “24 Hours of Baseball” charity event, the Clones front office won some and lost some, but the team did raise \$15,000 for charity. Watch the video from our game at BrooklynPaper.com!

HOT DOG...

Continued from page 1

paper. One tantalizing hint, however, is a second note that lists all the newspapers that needed to be consulted to find the contest results: the New York Times, the New York Evening Post, and the Brooklyn Standard Union.

The Standard Union folded in the 1920s.

Shea said he didn’t know the date of the scribblings, but said the very discovery of the document led to another astounding finding:

“We put together a team of experts to determine the validity of the scribblings and then, through the use of what I believe were scientific methods of detection, we discovered a New York Times article from 1986 that referred to the contest as taking 10 minutes.”

Major League Eating President David Diminaprobed — George’s brother — said the Times article, coupled with the scribblings, provided compelling evidence that the contest duration length was actually 10 minutes, not the 12 minutes that have been the standard for at least two decades (see chart).

“I had David Diminaprobed, and I’m still here,” said Richard Shea said. “Plus, it mentioned that the winner ate his dog and buns, so clearly he ate the dog and not the bun.”

“It’s kind of a ridiculous change,” the champ said, via cellphone from his home near Westport, Conn.

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June 14, 2008

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AWP 13



The Brooklyn Paper

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PARENT

Father's Day drive with daughter & dad

I will remember this Father's Day because instead of watching a ball-game on TV I will be driving my 13-year-old daughter and two younger brothers to camp in Pennsylvania.

I wonder if she will remember this day, this simple act of back packing, looks back years from now and lays down a memory for her. I do this and a thousand other little things — sending her to a movie with friends, trips to the book store, letting her stay up to watch "Saturday Night Live" — because I love her. I want her to finally realize that I am there for her and still do.

Even before I head out on the drive through New Jersey, even before I try to keep my mouth shut and not act too goofy in front of my daughter's friends,

I'm reflecting on his fatherhood thing and on my father, dead 20 years this fall.

The man I remember had rheumatoid arthritis that made his hands, wrists, elbows and feet swell and become deformed. He wore special shoes and had long scars from operations. His voice rasped from the never stopped Pali Mall that he never stopped pushing. He was a fan of sports or wrestle with me. By the time I was five, my father had been through two marriages, forced out of the family business and he started following a path that led to small, dirty, cluttered apartments and begin sports jobs.

My memories of him begin just as his own memories of him were dying.

I spent every other week-



The Dad

By Scott Sager

times, fun and low key. I chose our activities, our menus, our clothes, our music. We went to movies, shopped at the "R" Us and then played the games we bought while eating spaghetti sauce. We watched Friday night football and "Love American Style." I was given freedom to wander around for hot dogs when he worked at small neighborhood real estate offices.

When I was older he let me stay up to watch "The Midnight

Special" and "Don Kirshner's Rock Concert." I fondly remember these ordinary moments more than the total of what he was able to give me for the few years until life pulled me away.

My mother has an old sailboat case in known in family. It is stuffed with photos and report cards, upfitters from camp counselors, photos that accumulated during childhood years. I found a photo of my father when I was born. He is in a striped shirt, looking lean and fit, a full head of closely cropped hair. He looks as though he got out of the Navy — confident, a man coming into his own as a husband and father. This is the man I've heard stories of, how

he and my mother shared a sailboat on Lake Michigan with two other couples, how they went to parties, dinners, concerts. They knew interesting people. Socialists, artists, physicians, social scientists, musicians, writers, who who had pet monkeys. That man lived and was loved.

The man in the picture is someone I never knew.

In my mind my dad was with coffee and chips. I had hair, long hair sometimes. I was a good boy. My kids don't know that man.

When my daughter is in her dad's workshop, I will remember this drive to gymnastics camp? Will she think of the English class visual project she left for me to finish, gluing and stapling a six-story balsa wood building

together until 2:30 pm? Will she tell her children about our annual day trip to Coney Island and being too scared to ride the Cyclone? Or are the most important memories our little girls that my wife and daughter who are the lights are turned out each night or lemon crepes I make on Sunday mornings?

Thinking of my own father makes me wish I could be more like him. Will I ever be able to legend? If I start giving them ice cream with every meal? Can I bribe their hearts with candy and vaca

tions every winter?

In my mind my father, I can only give my children what I have to offer at this phase in my life. I hope I provide them with more than my dad furnished me so that they will see in me a reflection of him.

On Father's Day, though, somewhere around the Delaware Water Gap, I expect my kid will be jabbering away with her friends and happy I am nearly invisible to them.

Scott Sager is a Brooklyn dad and writer. This is his first column. Smartmom returns next week.

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Mo Willems has done it again

The list of legendary cartoonists in history — Anthony and Cleopatra, Napoleon and Josephine, Felix and Oscar — have been joined by Mo Willems, the latest addition: Elephant and Piggie.

The Emmy, Caldecott, Geisel and BAMBY award winner and former "Saturday Night Live" host, best known for his clever, witty tones for non-readers.

From the ne'er-well-known to the well-known: "Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus," to the oddball genre of "Leonardo, the Terrible Monster," to the tiresome Regis, Von Hoen, Elephant and "Edwin the Dinosaur Who Didn't Know She Was Extinct," to, of course, Trixie of "Knuffle Bunny." A cautionary tale, it has made a career of churning out memorable characters.

But now, apparently, Willems feels he needs a break.

I didn't get where I am today by not letting artists do their own thing. Woe is the critic who shuffles an artist off the stage and forces him to change his "show" according to others' taste.

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OUR OPINION

Dreaming of Wal-Mart

In a front-page story two weeks ago, our reporter Sarah Portlock took a walk along the Fulton Mall shopping strip in Downtown Brooklyn. She found that at least 11 chain stores have moved their location in that short, eight-block stretch.

One store, Payless Shoes, has three! Real estate observers said that saturation makes sense from a retailers' perspective, although it does little to enhance shoppers' choice or help keep prices competitive.

But change is afoot on the Fulton Mall. This week, The Brooklyn Paper confirmed that H&M, the high-fashion, low-price, European-style clothing chain will open next year on the mall, at Bridge Street.

And the New York Sun is reporting that JC Penney may occupy the current Conway site next door.

This is great news for shoppers, as both chains pride themselves on diverse offerings and competitive prices.

As does Reka, which will open on Wednes-

day in Red Hook.

As does Target, whose Atlantic Terminal store is said to be the chain's busiest location in the United States. So busy, in fact, that Target is planning to build another store just four blocks away.

Which brings us to Wal-Mart, whose revolutionary combination of size, selection and price has been changing the way of life for Americans. As Brooklynites have welcomed Target and Ikea, they would flock to the Ben- tolle behemoth if given the opportunity.

This newspaper has long supported Wal-Mart's efforts to open its first New York City store in Brooklyn, and has said that there is no better place for Wal-Mart than near the Fulton Mall.

While we remain concerned about some of Wal-Mart's corporate policies, we also believe that if it opened a truly urban store, Brooklyn consumers — and their dollars — would bend the chain towards our values, not the other way around.

And therein lies the key to adapting big-box stores to our urban environment.

If we can put them in a transit-oriented enhanced urban malls like Caesar's Bay or Gateway at Spring Creek, we end up with an auto-driven "sucking sound" putting the life out of nearby neighborhood shopping strips.

But put a Target, JC Penney or Wal-Mart in an area that doesn't already have more traffic than the merchants occupying the adjacent streets. Then, instead of killing Mom-and-Pop stores, they'd present the Mom and Pops with enlarged opportunities for profit.

Fulton Mall, while conveniently located in the heart of New York City — and is surrounded by booming residential and commercial neighborhoods with hundreds of thousands of potential shoppers.

With Fulton Mall changing, it is time for city officials to reconsider Wal-Mart's attempt to bring its low prices and vast selection to Downtown Brooklyn.

ALL DRAWN OUT



Lynne Henning

LETTERS

Want to build Brooklyn Bridge Park? Scale it back!

To the editor,

It is not surprising that costs have soared for the Brooklyn Bridge Park ("Bridge Park's budget grows again," May 22). That is because everything is going up. What is important is that there is enough money to start building the park as your article points out. The park does not have to begin in one year. It can be built in many increments available.

In this past few months, I have attended planning sessions for Pier 6 at the foot of Atlantic Avenue, which was a late addition to the park. People are hungry for a public park with active, and fun year-round activities for all.

We are meeting with elected officials to convince them to start some programming on Pier 6 that will generate funding to help

pay for the park and begin to attract park users. We find some encouragement and openness from the official ESDC plan that was made last year to the Empire State Development Corporation (ESDC) that used the agency to "re-engage the community" in the park design process."

As far as drawing up costs, there are elements of the official ESDC plan that are unnecessary; that few people want, and worse still, will damage the environment.

ESDC plans huge wave-calming devices in the East River to make a pond for kayaking and other water-based ways to entertain. Plans also call for buying a fleet of cars and paying for a private armed police force.

The article had a team of resignation from the Parks Department and the Prospect Park Alliance. The dangerous conditions are not "top priority"; the cost is huge, and, by implication, nothing will be done.

The article also says "we're not talking about a facility for only a handful of people here. Hundreds of people take a trail ride through the park every week and safety should be a priority."

It's not rocket science, simply putting the matter on the agenda and making it a capital improvement issue.

Let's not forget what can be achieved. The bridle paths in Forest Park, Queens, benefited from part of a \$1.7-million capital improvement grant, largely thanks to then Councilmember, Tom Ognibene.

One of the greatest offenders to our environment: Pampers diapers.

Instead, let's encourage diapers to be recycled. What about an alternative to Pampers — perhaps something being manufactured with recyclable materials?

Teresa Martin, Park Slope

Horse play

To the editor,

I thank you for highlighting the challenging conditions that horses and riders face in Prospect Park in your story, "They hurt horseback riders" (June 1).

The article had a team of resignation from the Parks Department and the Prospect Park Alliance. The dangerous conditions are not "top priority"; the cost is huge, and, by implication, nothing will be done.

The article also says "we're not talking about a facility for only a handful of people here. Hundreds of people take a trail ride through the park every week and safety should be a priority."

It's not rocket science, simply putting the matter on the agenda and making it a capital improvement issue.

Let's not forget what can be achieved. The bridle paths in Forest Park, Queens, benefited from part of a \$1.7-million capital improvement grant, largely thanks to then Councilmember, Tom Ognibene.

Attention Brooklyn — we need another Tom Ognibene to step up to the plate.

Ruth Moore, Windsor Terrace

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To the editor,

On Saturday, more than one hundred thousand people attended the Belmont Stakes to watch the thoroughbreds, and huge crowds pass daily through the American Museum of Natural History's exhibit, "The Horse," to marvel at the many accomplishments of the horse.

Yet hard pressed would any one of them be, in this city, to actually see, touch or ride a real live horse?

The bridle trails of Prospect Park are one of the few places left in this city where children and adults alike have the opportunity

to learn to ride or simply marvel over the beauty that is a horse cantering through the park.

Project Park Alliance director Tupper Thomas said that the repair of the bridle paths is not a top priority right now. I ask, "Why not?"

I wonder if she's never been to Kensington, Brooklyn, where the bridle paths were blessed the crowds clamoring for a chance to interact with a live horse, not one in a museum exhibit, or through a television screen, but the real thing?

If the eroded trails result in pushing the horses out of Prospect Park, we will have succeeded in creating a world that much smaller and less spectacular.

Susan Montross, Clinton Hill

Serve Somebody

To the editor,

The Brooklyn Paper, I am excited that Bob Dylan will be playing in Prospect Park ("Celebrate Dylan," June 7).

I wonder if she's never been to Kensington, Brooklyn, where the bridle paths were blessed the crowds clamoring for a chance to interact with a live horse, not one in a museum exhibit, or through a television screen, but the real thing?

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Susan Montross, Clinton Hill

CORRECTIONS

Our article "Ridge synagogues for sale" (page 7) incorrectly reported the historic status of the Ridgefield Methodist Church. The so-called "Green Church" is, in fact, listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Also, our front-page story about Bob Dylan's Aug. 12 concert in Prospect Park ("Celebrate Dylan," June 7) incorrectly suggested that Park Slope resident David Shenk would not pay \$100 to see a concert featuring Richard Thompson, Bruce Springsteen and Elvis Costello. Actually, Shenk said he would pay \$100 for such a show, or any show featuring a combination of three legendary musicians. But he retorted that he thought \$100 for Dylan alone was exorbitant, as he said in our story. The Brooklyn Paper regrets the confusion.

New York City encourages dads to spend quality quality time with their children. Join us for our free events throughout the year.



CELEBRATE FATHER'S DAY AT THE BEACH

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Free food, gifts, and games for kids and dads

Special treat: watch the Brooklyn Cyclones practice R.S.V.P. at 212-331-6200

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11201.

All letters must be signed and include the writer's home address and phone number (only the writer's name and neighborhood are published with the letter).

Letters to the editor must be typed and returned. The earlier in the week you send your letter, the better.

Don't be a baby

To the editor,

I read with interest the article, "Thief of Bad Bags" (The Brooklyn Angle, May 31).

The Brooklyn Club Task Force on Brooklyn Bridge Park

Irene Van Slyke, Boerum Hill

The writer is chair of the Sierra Club Task Force on Brooklyn Bridge Park.

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The writer is chair of the Sierra Club Task Force on Brooklyn Bridge Park.

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